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the ultimate RESOURCE GUIDE

for Luxury Design and Fine Interiors



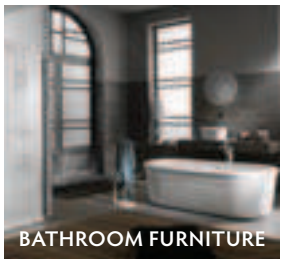
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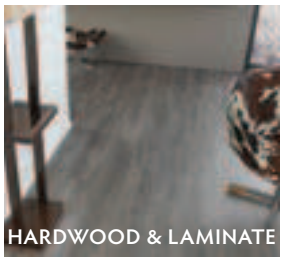
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COVERS WINTER: A bold living room by Mary Douglas Drysdale and Gibson Builders. Photo © Ron Blunt. SPRING: A rustic residence on the waterfront near Annapolis by Purple Cherry Architects, Interior Concepts and Pyramid Builders. Photo © David Burroughs. SUMMER: An inviting DC garden by Rippeteau Architects and Botanical Decorators. Photo © Jasper Colt.







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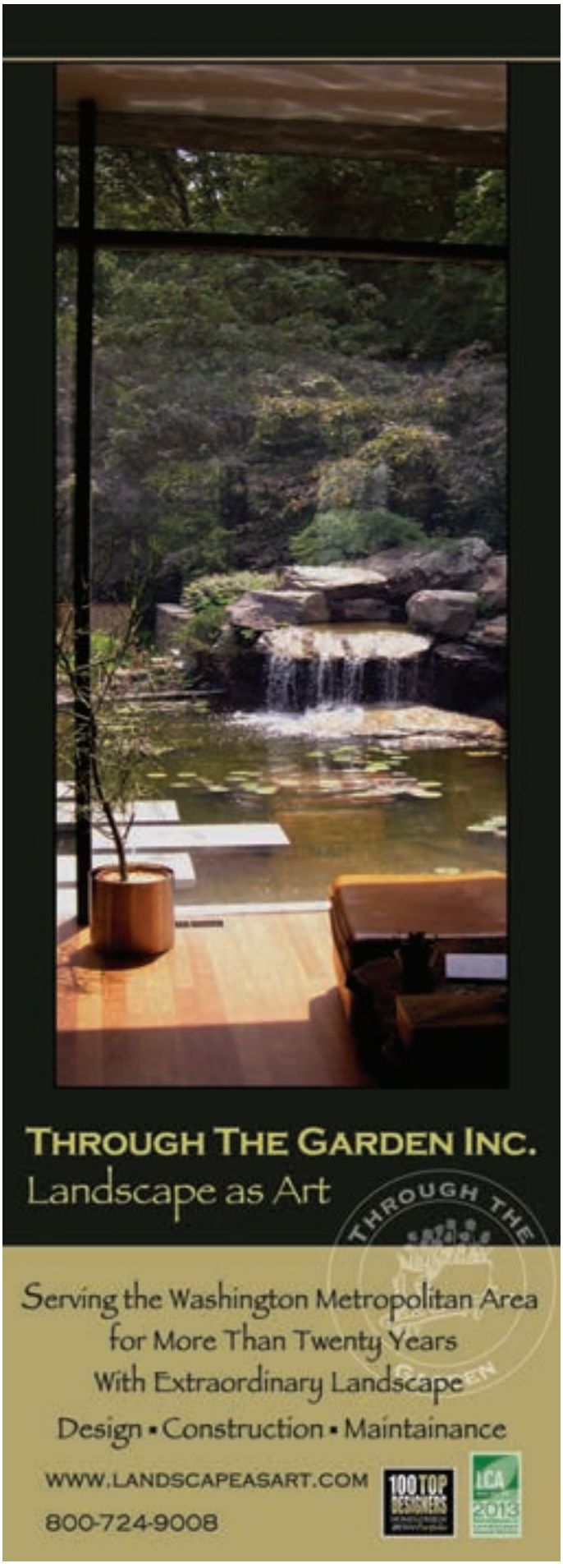


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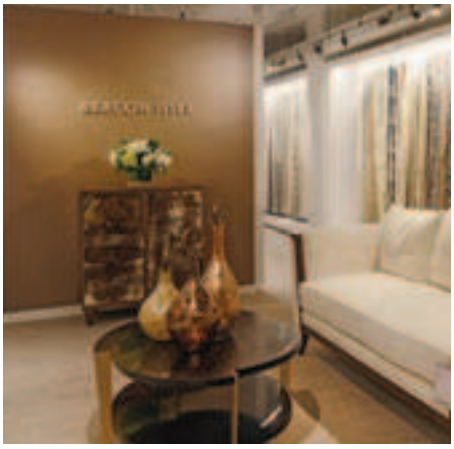
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rooms *we love!*







In a living room by Mary Douglas Drysdale, soft hues and traditional furnishings give voice to bright accents and modern art

In the hands of Mary Drysdale, the living room of a Bethesda home is a study in contrasts. Part of a whole-house renovation, it reflects the age and traditional style of the 100-year-old house while adding fresh, contemporary flair.

Drysdale had already designed numerous homes for the owners when she was called on for this one. The couple requested a living room for "gracious entertaining." But measuring a massive 44 by 22 feet, the space needed some architectural detailing to define it. Drysdale imparted symmetry with an extra, non-working set of doors at each end that balance the existing, functional ones. Crown moldings were also installed.

Since the living room provides access to four other rooms in the house, "it had to transition from those other rooms and work with them all," Drysdale explains, because each room is painted a strong, vivid hue. She chose pale green walls and off-white silk drapes and linen upholstery, and had the original wood floors glazed off-white with a subtle tone-on-tone stripe. Around their periphery, a floor stencil echoes the shape of the Wendell Castle coffee table that Drysdale selected to add punch to the room.

Other furnishings include the owners' antique settees and chairs, now glazed and reupholstered; occasional tables from Hickory Chair; Louis XV chairs that flank the fireplace; and an ottoman customized by Drysdale Design Associates.

Orange-and-white abstract paintings by Donald Judd and a circular abstract over the fireplace by Linling Lu infuse the room with vibrancy and interest. Matching orange throw pillows complete the space.





Interior & Architectural Design: Mary Douglas Drysdale, Drysdale Design Associates, Washington, DC. Contractor: Jim Gibson, Gibson Builders, LLC, Washington, DC. Photography: Ron Blunt.



rooms *we love!*





Millwork and an elaborate decorative-paint treatment impart a refined, older-house sensibility to a newly built abode

A couple building a custom, Nantucket-style home in McLean tapped Kristin Peake to tackle the interiors. The designer envisioned elegant but casual spaces with a sense of longevity—and her design for the dining room perfectly exemplifies this vision.

Peake worked with architect Mark Sullenberger and builder Patrick Latessa to create millwork that would convey the sensibility of an older home. "We specified the moldings and trim and applied the paint with an aged-brushstroke, striaed look," she says. "It added an Old World, nostalgic element." Because the owner wanted an uncluttered look, the team constructed a hidden closet by the fireplace for storage in place of a built-in china cabinet.

The highlight of the room is a custom wall stencil by Washington, DC-based Swatchroom depicting delicate branches entwined in an intricate, wispy pattern. Peake had the inspired idea of faux painting panels on the walls, which impart depth to the surfaces while adding to the room's older-home look. She explains that the walls were otherwise left unadorned to allow "the murals to be the art."

A palette of beige and gray enhances lightly distressed furniture in a worn patina that looks "vintage rather than country," says Peake. The table, by Lorts, is paired with shaped Napoleon chairs sporting pewter nail-head trim; host chairs are done in a textured fabric by Lillian August. Linen draperies with an embroidered pattern by Lee Jofa soften the windows and a custom chandelier in antique glass by Dana Creath Designs adds interest above the table.



Architecture: Mark R. Sullenberger, AIA, Custom Design Concepts, McLean, Virginia. Interior Design: Kristin Peake, Kristin Peake Interiors, LLC, Rockville, Maryland. Builder: Patrick Latessa, The Galileo Group, McLean, Virginia. Photography: Geoffrey Hodgdon.





Davida Rodriguez creates a sleek, contemporary kitchen in a renovated DC row house

During the conversion of a pre-war row house to three condos in the Columbia Heights neighborhood of Northwest DC, Davida Rodriguez was brought in to design kitchens that would mirror the fresh, modern aesthetic the developer sought. "I wanted to make the kitchens feel extravagant on a budget," she says.

Rodriguez played off contrasting elements in her designs. In our favorite, pictured here, she chose textured black and high-gloss, white-painted cabinets by Canada-based Miralis. The hood, encased in white glass tile, creates a strong visual block, while an attached panel made of black-painted drywall floats above the island to impart an airy feel. The same glass tile in black forms the backsplash. A niche for decorative items breaks up a solid wall of cabinetry. "I like to play with positive and negative space," Rodriguez explains. "Any kind of opening or floating element creates drama, openness and lightness."

Between the refrigerator and wall ovens, a line of cabinets in aluminum and frosted glass lengthens the room visually while adding interest. Engineered quartz in Arctic White brings a crisp, clean feel to the countertops, which on the island boast a waterfall edge. Taking advantage of the kitchen's 11-foot height, Rodriguez specified ceiling-height cabinets; the hood and floating panel cleverly fill the space created by the high ceilings, while recessed lights in the panel illuminate the island. Concrete floors convey an industrial vibe. Stainless-steel Bosch appliances and chrome counter stools complement the room's contemporary feel.

Kitchen Design: Davida Rodriguez, CKD, Davida's Kitchen & Tiles, Gaithersburg, Maryland. Developer & Builder: Rashid Salem, Q Street Development, Washington, DC. Photography: Bob Narod.







Gary Inman envisioned a spacious master bedroom with comfortable seating and an elegant, welcoming feel

Gary Inman was selected to transform a room in the 2014 Richmond Symphony Orchestra League Designer House before its host residence had even been built. After studying the floor plan, Inman chose the master bedroom. "I loved the bay window, the location, the light," he enthuses. "It's not huge, but with a ceiling pitched up to 14 feet, it feels gracious and dramatic."

During construction, Inman, now a designer with Richmond architecture firm Baskervill, spoke to the owners of the new home, wishing to factor their lifestyle into the design. "They have small children," he explains, "so I kept coming back to the idea of a sanctuary, of young parents needing a retreat."

To create a sense of tranquility, the designer chose Benjamin Moore's Skyscraper—a robin's egg blue—for the walls. Schumacher draperies in aquamarine added to the fresh palette, and a hand-knotted Tibetan rug grounded the space.

Inman selected classic furnishings and objects—but with a particular agenda. "Wherever possible, I wanted to highlight the talent in Richmond," he explains. He designed a mahogany vanity and had it made by local company Vangarde Woodworks; the Grantham Chest—part of Inman's "Downton Abbey"-inspired collection for Moore Councill—occupied a niche. A white-painted table from Richmond-based McKinnon and Harris stood near a wall that showcased a series of pressed flowers by local artist Anne Blackwell Thompson.

Other furnishings included a sofa and dresser from Kindel and a bedstead, bench and mirror by Niermann Weeks.



Interior Design: Gary Inman, Allied ASID; Catherine Stanley, CID, Glavé & Holmes Architecture, Richmond, Virginia. Builder: Joe Hill, Bel Arbor Builders, Chesterfield, Virginia. Photography: Kip Dawkins.







A grand renovation transforms a mundane master bath into a luxurious, spa-like living space

The owners of a circa-1980s house in Northwest DC tapped a design team that included Barnes Vanze Architects and designer Barry Dixon to complete a total renovation of their abode. Embracing a traditional aesthetic, the designers updated the home to include a lavish, spa-like master bath.

The 11-foot-tall room presented challenges because there was relatively little wall space to work with—"though this of course makes the room more beautiful since the windows are Southern exposure," architect Anthony Barnes points out. He designed a space that encompassed a bay for the tub and separate rooms for the shower and water closet. "The tub faces out, addressing the room," Barnes says. "It harkens back to a traditional, European look."

Dixon and Barnes turned to Waterworks to source everything in the bathroom. "This was the starting point for the look of the space," observes Dixon. "It's timeless and classic." Oversized Calacatta Gold marble subway tiles were used as wainscoting, topped with a chair rail of marble mosaic tile that also clads the shower interior. The floor is Calacatta Gold with onyx accents "for a little excitement," says Barnes.

Dixon selected a retro-inspired sink rather than a vanity to keep the space open. "When there's a beautiful floor, I try not to obstruct it," he explains. Linen draperies from his collection for Vervain bring the tall windows down to a more human scale, and the chaise, beside the oval, spider-pattern window, is covered in terrycloth so the owners "can sit on it even if they're wet," he says.

Renovation Architecture: Anthony S. Barnes, FAIA, LEED AP, Barnes Vanze Architects, Inc., Washington, DC. Interior Design: Barry Dixon, Barry Dixon, Warrenton, Virginia. Builder: Horizon Builders, Crofton, Maryland. Photography: Anice Hoachlander.



Botanical Decorators designs a pet-friendly backyard oasis with a modern vibe in downtown DC

After completing a dramatic, glass-walled addition to their Q Street row house, a young couple enlisted Morgan Washburn of Botanical Decorators to landscape their small, urban backyard so that it would relate to the modern aesthetic of the renovated home.

When the project began, the yard was a blank slate surrounded by a cedar privacy fence. It measured 20 by 30 feet, with a dogleg to one side. The owners, who have numerous dogs and cats, hoped to create a beautiful, comfortable space where they could entertain—but making it pet-friendly was a must.

Washburn designed a patio using staggered Pennsylvania Bluestone pavers that mirror the size of the window mullions. A table in the middle of the space creates the perfect oasis for outdoor dining. A water feature abutting the house cascades from a stone plinth into a small pool that is up-lit at night.

With pets in mind, the couple requested AstroTurf rather than real grass. "AstroTurf is gaining in popularity," Washburn observes. An irrigation system not only cleans the material, but also sprays the area with an organic mosquito repellant.

A grilling area occupies the dogleg, which contains vertical-form sweeping magnolias that soften the view of the side of the house. Shrub-like, non-invasive bamboo provides lush texture to the garden, which also includes summer snowflake viburnum. Upright European hornbeam lines the outside of the fence, and pots are filled with annuals such as coleus and sedum.



Landscape Design: Morgan Washburn, Botanical Decorators, Olney, Maryland.
Architecture: Darrel Rippeteau, AIA, Rippeteau Architects, PC, Washington, DC.
Photography: Jasper Colt.



CHIC SHADES

From muted to bright, a trio of trendy colors inspires interior updates

FARROW & BALL PAINT PALETTE

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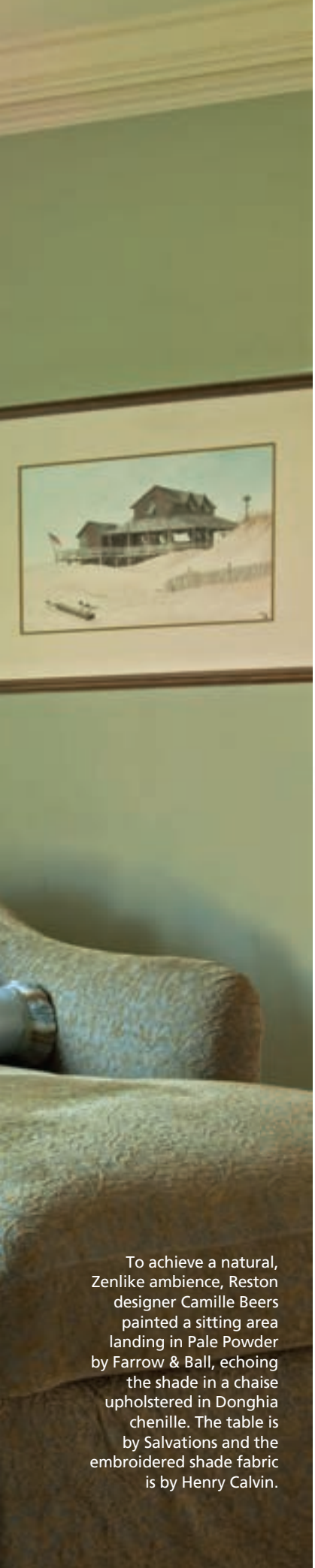
TERESA'S GREEN

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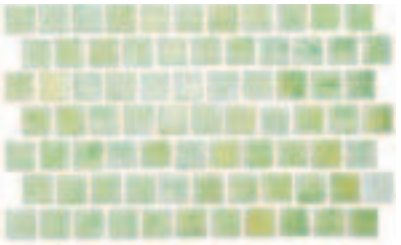


To achieve a natural, Zenlike ambience, Reston designer Camille Beers painted a sitting area landing in Pale Powder by Farrow & Ball, echoing the shade in a chaise upholstered in Donghia chenille. The table is by Salvations and the embroidered shade fabric is by Henry Calvin.

© TIMOTHY BELL



Set a stylish table with the Irwyn Ceramic Candlesticks by Uttermost. They range in height from 12 to 18 inches. $205 for a three-piece set. wayfair.com



Style meets sustainability in Susan Jablon's recycled Soft Sage Green and Cream Glass Tile (below), made from repurposed windshields damaged during manufacturing. $25 per 12-inch square. susanjablon.com



A patchwork of Ikat patterns blends sage with teal, green and ivory to create this playful rug by Nourison. Available in multiple sizes and as a runner. From $119. nourison.com



Fable Porch's Shaker Table is handcrafted from maple and poplar with a tongue-and-groove plank top. The coffee table measures 24 by 52 inches and is 18 inches high. $850. fableporchfurniture.com

"When the sun comes through this sage-green room, it feels like a fresh, spring day." —*Camille Beers*



This leafy fabric by Palazzo dresses up indoor and outdoor spaces in lush style. A damask/jacquard pattern, P0266 is resistant to fading, mildew and bacteria. $32 per yard. palazzofabrics.com



Designed in 2010 by Philippe Starck and Eugeni Quitllet for Kartell, the Masters Chair is pictured above in sage green. Suitable for indoor or outdoor use. $10,000. kartell.com

"Red always creates a bold color statement when you enter a room."
— Ernesto Santalla



The Trolley Lounge Chair and Ottoman by California-based Phase Design come in a range of fabrics and finishes. Chair: $3,240; ottoman: $1,260. apartmentzero.com; phasedesignonline.com



Measuring 18 by 18 inches, the compact Marisa Graphic Ottoman from IMAX Worldwide Home is pictured above in orange. $188. imaxcorp.com



Le Chef's 15-piece enamel cast iron orange cookware set is both pretty and practical, and resistant to scratches, chips, odors and stains. $400. lechefcookware.com



Handcrafted by artisanal glass blowers, this set of three Orange Glow Glass Bottles with Tops will brighten any space. $259. Available through timelesswroughtiron.com





Privilege Inc.'s 2-Piece End Table Set is an iron spiral topped with a wood surface and finished in a deep red-orange. $125. wayfair.com; privilegeinc.com



Designed by Patricia Urquiola for Moroso, the Smock sofa is characterized by extensive stitching that creates a pleated effect. $7,030. moroso.it





In an Arlington condo, a red Persian rug inspired architect and designer Ernesto Santalla to create a foyer/dining area that "helps you pause when you walk in." The walls are Benjamin Moore's Moroccan Spice.

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This blue guest bedroom by Roxanne Lumme Interiors provides a pop of saturated color in an otherwise neutrally hued home in McLean. The walls are Benjamin Moore's Newburyport Blue.



© ANGIE SECKINGER



ns boasts a herringbone pattern and a fringe of hand-twisted rope. $40. affinitylinens.com



Add a delicate touch with Fratantoni Lifestyles' Navy Blue Splash Glass Vases, which resemble blown-glass sculptures. Set of two: $150. fratantonilifestyles.com



Jennifer Taylor Home's Blue Tufted Sofa with Studs is upholstered in velvet with turned legs and nail-head trim. $2,214. jennifertaylorhome.com



Part of the Worlds Away collection by Matthew Izzo, the Asian-inspired Marcus Lacquer Cabinet comes in navy with gold hardware. $1,748. matthewizzo.com

"In a house full of neutrals, blue is a complementary way to bring in color."
— Roxanne Lumme



The stackable Madeleine Café Armchair by Sika Design is made from rattan and comes in a range of colors, including navy. $335. sika-design.com



The Charlize Hollywood Regency Navy Blue Velvet Tufted Gold Ottoman from Kathy Kuo Home pairs a cushioned velvet seat with a polished brass base. $873. kathykuohome.com



designers' choice *awards*

Our 2016 survey of area designers and architects

Each year, *Home & Design* polls hundreds of area professionals to discover their picks for leaders in the innovative, ever-evolving home-design industry—as well as their votes of confidence in those just making their marks. We also ask architects and designers to vote on their favorite industry resources, in categories ranging from audio-video and appliance showrooms to lighting dealers and art galleries. The following pages cover the complete survey results for 2016.





LEFT © GORDON BEALL, RIGHT © KIP DAWKINS

Clockwise from left: Evermay, a historic home in Georgetown, was remodeled by James F. Rill, AIA; Kelley Proxmire imparted her signature crisp, colorful style to a house in Falls Church; and a lush, stately poolscape was designed by Charles Owen of Fine Landscapes.







James F. Rill



Kelley Proxmire



Charles Owen

HALL OF FAME Architect
James F. Rill, AIA
Rill Architects, Bethesda, Maryland
rillarchitects.com

HALL OF FAME Designer
Kelley Proxmire
Kelley Interior Design, Bethesda, Maryland
kelleyinteriordesign.com

HALL OF FAME Landscape Designer
Charles Owen
Fine Landscapes Limited, Sterling, Virginia
finelandscapes.com

PORTRAIT: RILL © LYDIA CUTTER



This page, clockwise from right: a project by Richard Loosle-Ortega, RA, and Janet Bloomberg, AIA, of KUBE Architecture; a sprawling home built by The Galileo Group; an addition by Gilday Renovations; a luxurious poolscape and garden by McHale Landscape Design; and a kitchen by Lobkovich Kitchen Designs.

© GREG POWERS



© ANGIE SECKINGER







© MORGAN HOWARTH



© TIM LEE



© ANGIE SECKINGER



© BRANDON WEBSTER

This page, from top: an inviting waterfront home, designed by Scarlett Breeding, AIA; an airy, elegant living room by Tricia Huntley; and a sleek, modern abode by Patrick Brian Jones.



Scarlett Breeding



Janet Bloomberg & Richard Loosle-Ortega

Local Modern Architect
Richard Loosle-Ortega, RA, and
Janet Bloomberg, AIA
KUBE Architecture, Washington, DC
kube-arch.com

Local Traditional Architect
Scarlett Breeding, AIA
Alt Breeding Schwarz Architects
Annapolis, Maryland
absarchitects.com

Custom Builder
The Galileo Group, McLean, Virginia
thegalileogroup.com

Design/Build Firm
Gilday Renovations, Silver Spring, Maryland
gildayrenovations.com

Landscape Firm
McHale Landscape Design
Annapolis, Easton and McLean
mchalelandscape.com

Kitchen Design Firm
Lobkovich Kitchen Designs, Tysons Corner, Virginia. lobkovich.com



Patrick Brian Jones



Tricia Huntley

Up & Coming Architect
Patrick Brian Jones
Patrick Brian Jones, PLLC, Washington, DC
patrickbrianjones.com

Up & Coming Designer
Tricia Huntley
Huntley & Co., Washington, DC
huntleyandcompany.com

PORTRAITS: BLOOMBERG, ORTEGA © HELEN HAUSMANN; JONES © MICHAEL VENTURA; HUNTLEY © GREG POWERS



And Beige



ROMO

INDUSTRY AWARDS

Appliance Dealer
Appliance Builders Wholesalers
Rockville, Silver Spring, Ashburn, Arlington
abwappliances.com

Art Resource
Hemphill
Washington, DC
hemphillfinearts.com

Audio/Video Specialist
A.B.E. Networks
Silver Spring, Maryland
abenetworks.com

Cady's Alley Showroom
Waterworks, Washington, DC
waterworks.com

Custom Closet Company
Closets by Design
Manassas, Virginia
closetsbydesign.com

Decorative Painter/Studio
Lisa Tureson, Studio Artistica
studioartistica.smugmug.com

Fabric Showroom
Romo, Washington, DC
romo.com

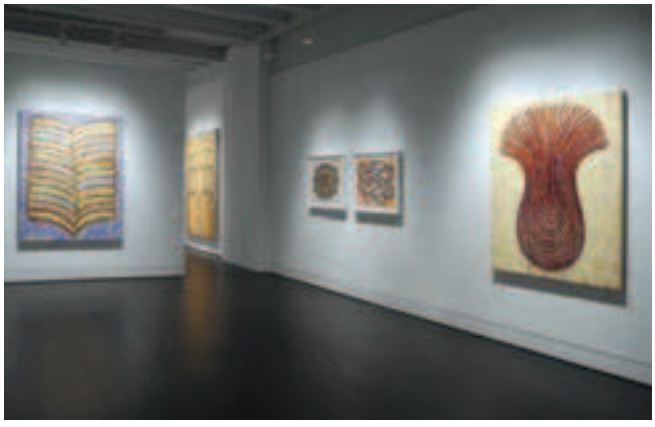
Flooring Resource (to the trade)
Carpet Impressions, McLean, Virginia
carpetimpressions.com



Potomac Woodwork, LLC



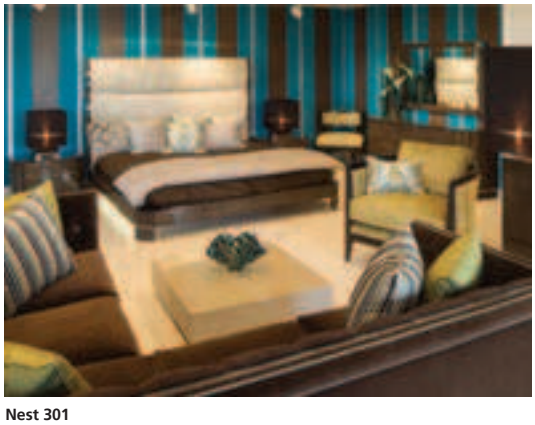
Carpet Impressions



Hemphill



Lisa Tureson, Studio Artistica



Nest 301



Osborne & Little



Waterworks



Holly Hunt



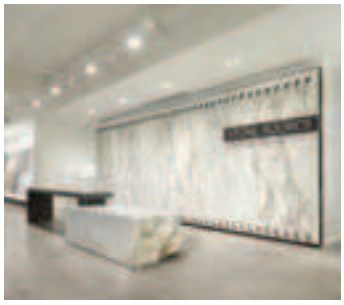
Annapolis Lighting



Baker



Closets by Design



Stone Source



Architectural Ceramics

Home Accessories Showroom
And Beige, Washington, DC
andbeige.com

Contemporary Furniture Showroom (retail)
Nest 301, North Bethesda, Maryland
nest301.com

Traditional Furniture Showroom (retail)
Baker, Washington, DC
bakerfurniture.com

Furnishings (to the trade)
Holly Hunt, Washington, DC
hollyhunt.com

Lighting Dealer
Annapolis Lighting, Annapolis, Rockville, Fairfax. annapolislighting.com

Local Furniture Maker
Potomac Woodwork, LLC, Gaithersburg, Maryland. potomacwoodwork.com

Surface Showroom
Stone Source, Washington, DC
stonesource.com

Tile Dealer
Architectural Ceramics, six area showrooms.
architecturalceramics.com

Wallcoverings Showroom
Osborne & Little, Washington, DC
osborneandlittle.com

where to go SHOPPING

New openings and big moves on the home-design front throughout the Metro area



MOSAIC TILE

NEW OPENINGS

B&F CERAMICS, a family-owned and -operated tile supplier, unveiled a new showroom in Fairfax in October 2014. The 10,000-square-foot location spotlights tile from 23 manufacturers in porcelain, ceramic, natural stone, glass, metal and hardwood, along with a range of grout and accessories.
2803 Merrilee Drive, Fairfax, Virginia; 703-206-9111. bfceramics.com

CALIFORNIA CLOSETS debuted a new location in Northwest DC in August 2015. Representing at least 10 manufacturers, the space measures 1,040 square feet and showcases premium designs and eco-friendly storage solutions for bedrooms, offices, garages, pantries and other areas.
5223 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Washington, DC; 703-573-9300. californiaclosets.com




ROMO





ANNAPOLIS LIGHTING



KOHLER SIGNATURE STORE BY THOS. SOMERVILLE CO.



CALIFORNIA CLOSETS



NOUVEL CABINETRY



KONST SIEMATIC

KENWOOD KITCHENS debuted a new Annapolis location in October 2014. This 4,000-square-foot kitchen-and-bath studio features Wood-Mode and Greenfield cabinetry, along with Wolf and Sub-Zero appliances and plumbing products by Kohler, Moen and Delta. Full kitchens and baths are displayed, as well as countertop, flooring and backsplash samples.
1415 Forest Drive, Annapolis, Maryland; 443-458-5484. kenwoodkitchens.com

KOHLER SIGNATURE STORE BY THOS. SOMERVILLE CO., a joint venture between Kohler and Thos. Somerville, opened in June 2015 in Baltimore's Little Italy neighborhood. Located in a historic building, the 6,200-square-foot showroom exclusively carries Kohler brands, including Kallista and Robern, in working vignettes.
300 Albemarle Street, Baltimore, Maryland; 410-469-6619. kohlersignaturestorebaltimore.com

MOSAIC TILE COMPANY added an 11th location to its mid-Atlantic roster in January 2015. The 12,000-square-foot facility in Alexandria boasts more than 100 installations featuring American-made Fieldstone, Tedd Wood and Wellborn cabinets, appliances, hardware, hardwood, lighting and plumbing fixtures. Tile and stone offerings are sourced worldwide.
821 South Pickett Street, Alexandria, Virginia; 703-310-6852. mosaictileco.com

NOUVEL CABINETRY is a new showroom launched by Nouvel Kitchen and Bath in June 2015. The 1,500-square-foot space in Lorton, Virginia, manufactures contemporary-style cabinets made with textured and high-gloss laminates. Adjacent to the production facility, the showroom displays custom cabinets for kitchens, baths, media rooms, laundry rooms, closets and offices.
8930 Telegraph Road, Lorton, Virginia; 703-372-1750. nouvelcabinetry.com

PORCELANOSA, a Spanish manufacturer of high-end surface materials and kitchen and bath fixtures, opened a new Washington showroom in June 2015 to serve DC-based clientele. The 1,700-square-foot space encompasses a full-size model kitchen, three bathroom vignettes and a vast selection of product samples. Customers can order products for same-day delivery from the company's Rockville location.
1000 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC; 202-204-1655. porcelanosa-usa.com



POLIFORM | SAGART STUDIO

QUADRILLE, the purveyor of fabric and wallpaper lines by Quadrille, Alan Campbell, China Seas, Home Couture and Cloth and Paper, opened the doors of its 600-square-foot showroom in the Washington Design Center on March 18, 2015. *1099 14th Street, NW, Suite 335, Washington, DC; 202-682-2995. quadrillefabrics.com*

ROMO, the British manufacturer of fine fabrics, wallpaper and trim, made its DC debut at the Washington Design Center on March 18, 2015. Along with its own collections, the 3,500-square-foot, to-the-trade-only showroom features British brands Mark Alexander, Kirkby Design, Villa Nova and more.
1099 14th Street, NW, Suite 260, Washington, DC; 202-525-4953. romo.com

TW PERRY, a leading supplier of building materials, opened its sixth area location in March 2015, a new, 3,000-square-foot showroom in downtown Annapolis. The TW Perry Design Studio displays a wide range of quality windows, doors and custom woodwork. Featured manufacturers include LePage Windows and Doors and TruStile Doors. The company also offers its own lines of custom doors, millwork and more.
208 West Street, Annapolis, Maryland; 443-808-1481. twperry.com

THOS. SOMERVILLE, a plumbing and heating supply company, opened a new Sterling, Virginia, location in spring 2015. Representing more than 40 manufacturers, the 5,500-square-foot showroom boasts fully designed bathroom vignettes, along with extensive displays of sinks, showerheads, toilets, tile, kitchen cabinets, countertops and more.
22570 Shaw Road, Sterling, Virginia; 703-955-5640. tsomerville.com

UNITED GRANITE, a stone fabricator, is slated to open a Chantilly, Virginia, showroom in October 2015. The three-story, 40,000-square-foot space will also encompass a warehouse and fabrication shop. Kitchen, bath and bar vignettes will display the company's huge inventory of natural and engineered stone products.
25391 Pleasant Valley Road, Chantilly, Virginia; 703-259-9021. unitedgranite.us



B&F CERAMICS



KENWOOD KITCHENS

PORCELANOSA



QUADRILLE

ON THE MOVE

ANNAPOLIS LIGHTING recently moved its Rockville location to a larger showroom. Light fixtures by as many as 100 manufacturers are on display in the new, 5,000-square-foot space, which showcases high-end products for consumers, interior designers and custom-home builders in addition to stylish kitchen and bath vignettes.
800 E. Gude Drive, Suite C, Rockville, Maryland; 301-231-4994. annapolislighting.com

KONST SIEMATIC moved to a new Bethesda location in October 2014. The 1,558-square-foot showroom is the exclusive source for German-made SieMatic cabinetry in the DC area, boasting sleek, modern displays that provide ideas and inspiration. KONST also features appliances by Miele, Gaggenau, Sub-Zero, Wolf, Dornbracht, Blanco and SieMatic.
7550 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 130, Bethesda, Maryland; 301-657-3800. konstsiematic.com

POLIFORM | SAGART STUDIO is moving to a restored Victorian row house in Georgetown. Scheduled to open in spring 2016, the four-floor, 2,500-square-foot space will house a sleek showroom and design studio in half the building, while the other half will be styled as a functional home blending traditional architecture and modern design. Poliform kitchen and bath furnishings and complementary furniture, lighting, rugs and accessories will be available. Sagart Studio exclusively represents Poliform, Varenna, Agape, Riva 1920, Porada, Moooi, Deltalight and Extremis in the region.
2611 P Street, NW, Washington, DC; 202-554-8658. poliformdc.com



St. Michaels Residence
Photo by Tom McCall | Architecture by
Robert M. Gurney, FAIA

architecture ▪ custom building



light and airy



A dilapidated row house in DC's gentrifying Shaw neighborhood desperately needed an overhaul. Architect Will Couch was tapped to create a light-filled, modern home; his plan transformed the stairwell from dark and cramped to bright and beautiful.



THEN	NOW
The switchback staircase was narrow and inconveniently blocked off from the rest of the space by walls.	The wide staircase faces the entry and is centrally located. The walls around it have been removed, creating an open floor plan.
There was no line of sight from the front entry to the back door, so the house felt closed off and dark.	It's easy to see around the stairs to the back of the house, where glass doors opening out to the backyard admit natural light.
The stairs were an eyesore, with a rickety old wood railing.	The clean-lined staircase combines blocks of wood and a glass railing that emphasize their sculptural shape.
The stairs were too narrow and closed off to admit light from the second floor.	Two skylights above the stairwell bathe the main floor in natural light.

Renovation Architecture: Will Couch, AIA, LEED AP, Foundry Architects, LLC , Washington, DC. Builder: Washington Landmark, Washington, DC. Photography: Stacy Zarin Goldberg.


anthony wilder design/build, inc.
301.907.0100 | anthonywilder.com
a w
d b
custom homes | architecture | interior design | construction | landscaping
Photography by Morgan Howarth

natural tapestry

A new eco-friendly home reflects its 1930s-era neighborhood

Hired to design a new home for a family of five in Maryland's Brookmont neighborhood, architects Maria Casarella and Angela Yu of Cunningham | Quill faced a unique challenge: strike a balance between giving the owners the large house they desired and respecting the fabric of the surrounding 1930s-era bungalows. The landscape—described by Casarella as "a huge, soggy mess"—posed challenges of its own.

The architects developed a plan that would organize the home around a central staircase that brings light from the top floor to the basement. An informal layout, with no traditional dining room, includes an open living area and kitchen on the main level and four bedrooms upstairs.

A palette of stucco and stone with mahogany trim both indoors and out reflects the home's natural setting. So as not to block the views, the garage was sheathed in mahogany slats, creating a light-filled space that doubles as a porch for casual gatherings.

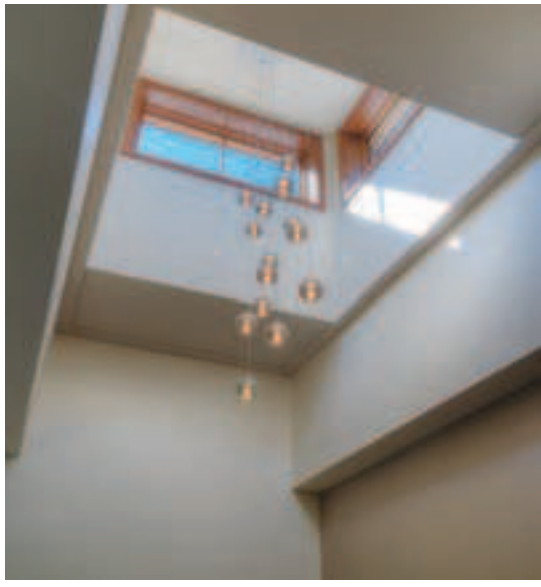
With sustainability in mind, the architects positioned the house, its windows and its low eaves to minimize solar heat gain and maximize daylight effects. Other eco-friendly features include geothermal heating and cooling and an LED lighting system. A series of vegetated swales resolved stormwater issues.

Bridging modern and Craftsman design, the completed house appropriately fits the neighborhood—and the owners are thrilled with the results. "With these good ingredients," concludes Casarella, "it's hard to mess up."

Architecture: Maria Casarella, AIA, senior associate; Angela Yu, AIA, project architect, Cunningham | Quill Architects, Washington, DC. Furniture: Sarah Purdy, SPI Design, Alexandria, Virginia. Builder: Potomac Valley Builders, Bethesda, Maryland. Kitchen Cabinetry: Karen Hourigan, Kitchen and Bath Studios, Chevy Chase, Maryland. Landscape Architecture: Robert Hruby, ASLA, Campion Hruby Landscape Architects, Annapolis, Maryland. Photography: Anice Hoachlander.



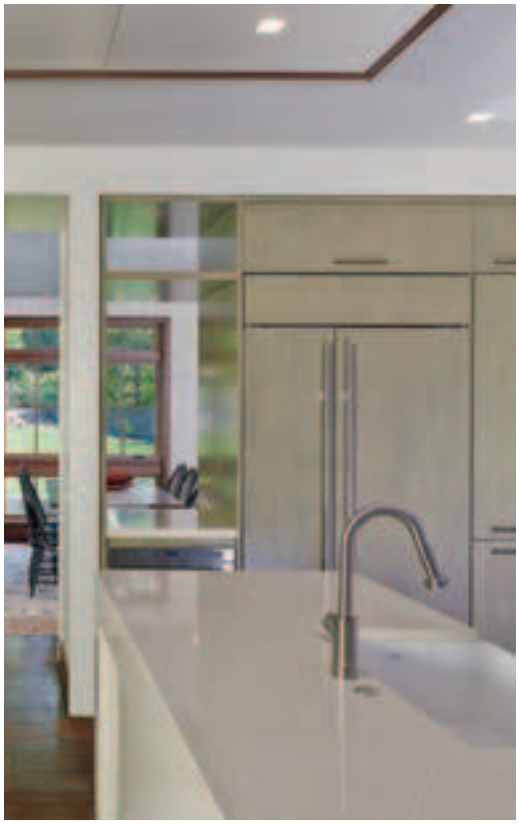












MARIA CASARELLA'S

TRADE SECRETS

■ Trust the experience of the professionals you hire. You want an architect who has gone through the process with a high level of excellence in mind.

■ Have a house that's easy to maintain. The basic stuff—insulation, windows that work properly, making sure that storm water is managed correctly—goes a long way toward energy conservation.

■ The least revealing factor about a builder is price. It doesn't tell you anything about what it's like to work with them or their ability to manage a project.

■ It's misleading to look at images [of homes] and not realize how much thought is behind them. Architecture is not instantaneous. We are trained as generalized thinkers who put people together to make something. You want someone who really has that expertise.

sliding doors

stylish garage entries add visual interest


1


2


3


4


5


6


7


8


9

1. MODEL 9800 SONOMA. Fiberglass with AccuGrain wood look. wayne-dalton.com. **2.** INTEGRATED GARAGE AND ENTRY. Knotty cedar. designerdoors.com. **3.** CORALVILLE COLLECTION. Rust- and dent-resistant vinyl. pellagaragedoors.com. **4.** AVANTE COLLECTION. Bronzed, anodized-aluminum frame and frosted-glass panels. clopaydoor.com. **5.** CARRIAGE HOUSE DOOR. Wood. amarr.com. **6.** THERMACORE INSULATED GARAGE DOORS. Steel with flush panel. overheaddoor.com. **7.** EASTMAN ESTATE. Steel with polyurethane insulation, carriage-house style. garaga.com. **8.** KENDRA. French-door style, powder-coated aluminum, frosted acrylic with brass, nickel or antique handles. frenchporte.com. **9.** 360 SERIES RESIDENTIAL. Clear, anodized aluminum with laminated, frosted glass. haasdoor.com.

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© ANNE GUMMERSON

A rustic kitchen in a project by Hammond Wilson.

to build a house

How do you ensure that a new home will be completed on time and on budget?

FRANCISCA VILLARROEL ALONSO
AV Architects + Builders
"On time and on budget" is usually the number-one priority—and the number-one stressor—in building a house. We address it with a slow, diligent design phase during which we create plans that cover complete construction costs, 90 percent of which are set before construction begins.

Most architects will provide an initial estimate, and the builder will follow up with an estimate that includes allowances for material specifications, which builders expect to change during the building phase. By contrast, we talk extensively with the client during the planning stage and make all the decisions regarding material specifications at that point. We establish fixed prices that don't change—thereby saving time and money down the road. The only choice our clients have to make at the end of the process is what color to paint the walls!

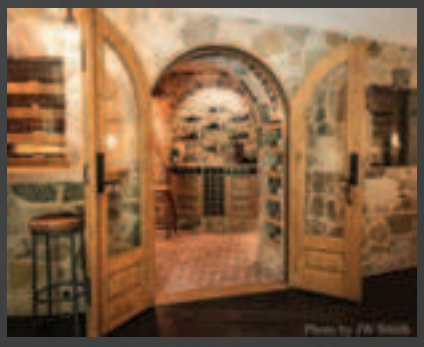
LEO WILSON, AIA, LEED AP
Hammond Wilson
Communication and planning are the keys to completing a project on time and on budget. The first step is communicating the vision and plans for the project with a comprehensive set of drawings and specifications. The more thorough these documents are, the more accurately a contractor can price the materials and labor.

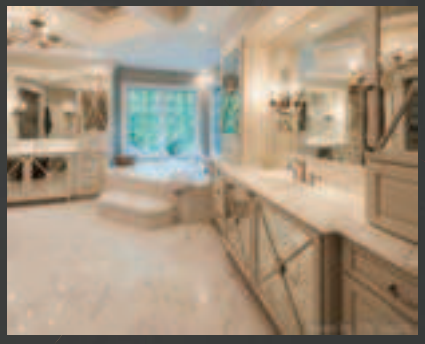
It is also important to select a well-organized general contractor. A contractor's ability to maintain detailed records and keep track of product orders is essential to a smooth project timeline. The design team and contractor should always be thinking ahead, allowing the homeowner time to make needed decisions. Finally, the homeowners' decisions must be made in a timely manner. To avoid indecision, many homeowners keep a binder or Houzz ideabook or Pinterest page with images of things they like, so that when it's time to select a given product, the choices are already narrowed down.

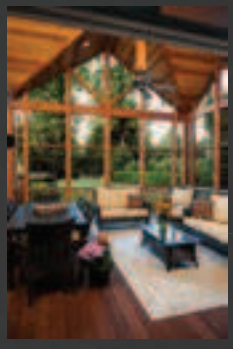
WILMA BOWERS
Bowers Design Build
The computer-industry term "garbage in, garbage out" is appropriate for the custom home-building and renovation industry. If the client starts with a detailed set of construction plans, has all product selections specified and ordered and a week-by-week plan of execution, there is no excuse for a project to be over budget or late. It is the responsibility of the professionals to outline the schedule and budget and guide the client through the product-selection process. This can be the biggest challenge for the homeowner, who may be overwhelmed by thousands of product choices.

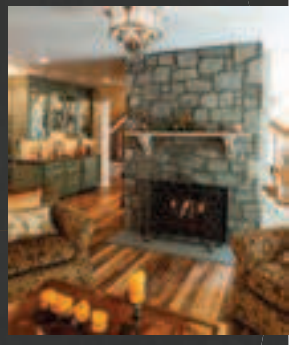
At Bowers Design Build, we have a product-selection specialist to keep the decision-making on track and help clients make choices based on functionality, aesthetics and budget. The end result of careful planning and project management is a project that is on time and on budget.













For 25 years, we have had a passion for designing and building some of the best homes in Northern Virginia. While the quality of our word defines us, the true measure of our success is satisfied customers for life.

-Bruce and Wilma Bowers, Owners

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BowersDesignBuild.com 703.506.0845

editors' picks



TWO FOR ONE
◄ Eldorado Stone's latest collection of engineered stone surfaces melds two looks in one: the rustic appearance of stone and the classic look of red brick. Eldorado Stone surfaces are appropriate for indoor and outdoor applications. eldoradostone.com

THE ART OF ORIGAMI
▼ Inspired by the ancient Japanese art of paper-folding, the marble tiles and mosaics in AKDO's Origami collection are cut so that the veining on each piece aligns with others to create the illusion of a folded object. Chevron, hexagon, diamond and rectangular-block motifs are available in a range of hues; pictured here, the Setsumi pattern creates a three-dimensional effect. Suitable for floor and wall applications. akdo.com

COFFERED CHIC
▼ The WoodTrac Ceiling System by Sauder features affordable, easy-to-install ceiling panels that create a coffered look. The panels can be suspended over a dropped ceiling grid or attached directly to an existing ceiling with clips. The systems come in six finishes, including Abbey Oak, Black Alder, Cherry, Light Maple and White/Paintable. woodtrac.com







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hammondwilson.com



WEATHERED WOOD LOOK
▲ Trespa has added a range of gray wood tones to Meteon, its popular line of panels for façades and other exterior applications. Made of a high-pressure, compact laminate, the vertical exterior wall covering is durable as well as weather- and UV-resistant; the six new wood tones are textured, and impart a weathered, natural-wood look. trespa.com

SAND & SEA
▼ San Francisco-based Fireclay has created a line of tiles in hues that evoke the sand and sea. The glass tiles are handmade from 100-percent recycled materials, and range from pale pastels to understated neutrals and creams. Fireclay also makes tile in glazed ceramic, brick and stone. fireclaytile.com







Purple Cherry Architects
David Burroughs Photography

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www.pyramid-builders.com

RUSTIC STYLE
▼ Carlisle Wide Plank Floors' Farmhouse collection—one of 12 flooring collections the company introduced in 2015—conjures an aged, timeworn vibe. Made of distressed white oak, the line features six rustic hues including Baled Hay, pictured here. wideplankflooring.com





RIPPLE EFFECT
▲ The Wave Front Farmhouse Sink by Stone Forest was inspired by the rippled surface of water. The pattern on its apron front is echoed in a collection of coordinating backsplash tiles. The sink comes in honed basalt or Carrara marble; the nine-by-nine-inch tiles are available in the wave pattern in basalt and with a flat surface in Carrara. stoneforest.com



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www.rillarchitects.com

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www.avarchitectsbuild.com

◆ Anthony Wilder Design/Build, Inc.



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301-907-4535
www.anthonywilder.com

◆ Becker Morgan Group, Inc.



Award-winning architectural/engineering firm providing distinctive residential design since 1983. Becker Morgan Group focuses on design excellence and exceptional client service. Services range from consulting via freehand sketches to comprehensive design.

410-546-9100
www.beckermorgan.com

◆ Bowers Design Build



For more than 25 years, Bowers has been delivering beautiful designs and exceptional construction experiences for new homes and renovations of all sizes. Total customer satisfaction is their number one goal.

703-506-0845
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◆ CHECA Architects, PC



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202-299-0186
www.checaarchitects.com

◆ GTM Architects



Established in 1989, GTM Architects is an award-winning design firm that offers architecture, planning and interior design services; committed to placing the needs of their clients and their projects first.

240-333-2000
www.gtmarchitects.com

◆ Hammond Wilson



Has created award-winning designs across the Chesapeake Bay since 1976. Best known for distinctive, functional buildings of timeless beauty and craftsmanship. A strong reputation for creativity, collaboration, leadership and expertise.

410-267-6041
www.hammondwilson.com

◆ John F. Heltzel, AIA, PC



John's mindful design approach focuses on listening. This simple yet unique approach, enhanced by talent and experience, guides clients to the solution that achieves their goals and respects their lifestyle.

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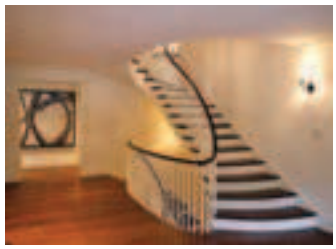
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modern makeover



A newly single homeowner tapped KUBE Architecture to update the Northwest DC row house he had just purchased into an open, modern bachelor pad. Richard Loosle-Ortega utilized a bold lighting plan to create a sophisticated space centered on the sleek, streamlined kitchen.



THEN	NOW
Pendants above the island and a couple of recessed lights provided inadequate lighting in the dated kitchen area.	A dropped ceiling with horizontal fluorescent lights delineates the kitchen. Recessed halogens illuminate the rest of the room.
There was no under-cabinet or task lighting.	LED lights are installed under cabinets, while soffits have been deconstructed into planes that hide more LED lighting.
The design and style of the mundane, traditional home was not visually compelling.	The lights on the cabinet side of the room are all horizontal. On the opposite wall, they are all vertical for interest.
The lights were all uniform white, not dimmable and only operable by wall switches.	The dimmable lighting system is operable via iPhone. The colors of the lights can be changed.

Renovation Architecture: Richard Loosle-Ortega, RA, KUBE Architecture, Washington, DC. Contractor: Lenny Ilkovich, Washington, DC. Photography: Greg Powers.



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that's entertainment

Gramophone designs a hub for movies and gaming in an Annapolis home

The cavernous basement of an Annapolis home was being used to store jet skis and motorcycles before the owners decided to transform it into a space for entertaining. They wanted an open media room that would transition to areas where their kids and guests could relax, play games and socialize in style.

After visiting Gramophone's showroom in Timonium, Maryland, and reviewing home-automation options, the couple hired the company to design and build their 1,800-square-foot play space and also take care of the lighting, home technology and décor.

The finished project includes a billiards area with a stone fireplace, a game space with poker table and custom leather banquette, a kitchenette with a microwave and dishwasher to make parties a breeze and a media room with a custom leather sectional. A freestanding bar overlooking the theater area accommodates spill-over crowds on game day.

Simple-to-use controls enable the owners to automate A/V and lighting by iPad or remote—whether they want to change the colors of the LED lights installed in their cove or coffered ceilings or simultaneously view four to six different movies or shows on the 125-inch screen and four 55-inch Sony TVs installed throughout the space. Millwork and acoustic panels disguise A/V equipment while drapes on an automated track can block out sound and light from the theater.

The entire project was designed and completed in 12 weeks. "Because we controlled the build-out, things moved quickly," says Andrew Davis, director and COO of Gramophone. "The owner believed in our vision and allowed us to run with it."





Contractor: Steve Malat; Interior Design: Bethany Johnson; Lighting: Jeff Nale; Audio/Video: Andrew Davis, Gramophone, Timonium, Maryland. Photography: Maryland Photography, Inc.









ANDREW DAVIS'S

TRADE SECRETS

■ Too often, A/V and lighting are thought about once a project is underway so you have to retrofit. When a whole team sees a vision through from the get-go, the end result is much better.

■ Talk to a specialist and interview past clients to ensure a vendor's work ethic and expertise.

■ Visit a showroom that can show off different technologies to make sure you're not missing out on anything. Touch, see and play with a system to be sure it's something you're going to enjoy. What you see on a website can be different than what you actually get.

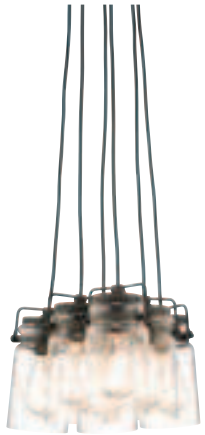
■ Thinking through a lighting plan is really important to making a designer's vision come to life. Lighting completely sets the mood, makes a space look larger and enhances certain features.

illuminations *decorative pendants light the way*


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1. ANADEM PENDANT. Faux leather; starting at $6,450. axolightusa.com. **2.** METEOR TWELVE LIGHT PENDANT. Textured gold leaf, natural agate and hand-crafted iron; $12,488. corbettlighting.com. **3.** CASWELL 5116-AGB. Aged-brass and polished-nickel finishes; starts at $999. hudsonvalleylighting.com. **4.** BRINLEY COLLECTION 6-LIGHT PENDANT. Made from old-fashioned canning jars; $285. dominionelectric.com; kichler.com. **5.** MITCHEL FIELD. Inspired by 1920s aviation; vintage aluminum strips with exposed rivets; starts at $1,238. troylightinglights.com. **6.** BLOOMINGDALE'S CAVIAR ADJUSTABLE SMALL CLUSTER PENDANT. Nickel and smoked glass; $2,450. bloomingdales.com. **7.** PLANET. Stiff, frameless embroidered fabric; starts at $1,465. foscarini.com. **8.** CAN CAN PENDANT. Design by Marcel Wanders. Injection-molded PMMA body and diffuser, polycarbonate ceiling fitting; $345. usa.flos.com. **9.** EUGENE LANTERN. Hand-blown glass; starts at $2,800. remains.com.



electronic home environments

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© SAVANT

A bar/rec space by SAVANT boasts LED lights and multiple TV screens.

wave of the future

What are the next game-changers in whole-house automation and lighting systems?

TONY FERRANTE
Electronic Home Environments
The last major game-changer was the iPad, which altered the landscape for automation and electronics. Nothing now is close to that level of impact, but wearable technology, such as the Apple Watch and the Samsung Galaxy Gear Smartwatch, might be the next trend to watch. Phone apps are compatible with smart watches for even greater convenience—no need to even locate the cell phone.

The PinPoint Proximity Detection Beacon from Crestron is another interesting breakthrough. Place the devices—the size of phone chargers—in rooms around the house. They will enable your smart device to know what room it's in. So when you walk into the kitchen you'll see the lighting, audio, and TV controls for that room on your smart watch or phone.

Outdoor environments are becoming more elaborate, with anti-glare screens on TVs, landscape speaker systems paired with lights and heaters built into TVs.

STEPHEN MILLER
Dulles Electric
We are carrying a new line of products, Adorne, from the wiring-device and lighting-controls company Pass & Seymour. Adorne offers a whole-house control system for lighting that can be installed after the fact—unlike most systems that need to be put in during construction. Just change out dimmers and switches, install a router, and Adorne will work with a wireless app.

The Adorne line also features under-cabinet LED lights with a plug mold that replaces the outlets on the walls for a cleaner look. Cooks can hang their iPhones off the plug mold so they can easily read recipes while preparing food.

Dimmer switches are also improving. Lutron and Pass & Seymour are offering LED dimmers, and prices for LED lights are steadily coming down. Pass & Seymour has developed a universal dimmer that works with every type of light, from LED to incandescent.

EDDIE SHAPIRO
SmartTouch USA
There are no game changers—just yet. Two types of home-automation systems are available today: professional-grade home-control solutions; and do-it-yourself (DIY) systems such as the Internet of Things and Apple HomeKit (which has not yet been released). Both platforms control home devices through wireless technology without the consumer having to hire someone to implement them. So far, we have found DIY systems to be unreliable at best—other than those intended for small-scale use. While in the future they may allow better integration at lower costs, they are a few years away from that now.

In our view, professionals still offer the best integration of whole-house technology in your home. We implement Lutron for lighting control and SAVANT for home technology, then integrate them for what we feel is the best experience in whole-house systems.



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PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Among the innovative fixtures available through Annapolis Lighting: the Mill Ceiling Light by AERIN for Visual Comfort & Co. (top), now available through Annapolis Lighting for the first time; a hand-forged chandelier by Vermont-based Hubbardton Forge (right); and a chandelier by Currey & Company (above).

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editors' picks

RUSTIC + REFINED
► Designed by Baltimore-based Gutierrez Studios, the rustic yet refined Cross Section table lamp reflects an industrial vibe. Fabricated from blackened steel and reclaimed timbers, the base is finished with an embossed layer of zinc or copper, hand-burnished to highlight the wood grain. Also in natural or dark-stained wood. The shade is linen. gutierrezstudios.com



INSPIRED BY INDIA
▼ Lighting designer Tom Dixon's Beat collection was inspired by simple brass cooking pots and other traditional vessels used in India. Fixtures are made of spun and hand-beaten brass and come in a range of colors. Available as pendants and floor or table lamps through Contemporaria in DC. contemporaria.com





YOUR VIEWING PLEASURE
▲ Hammacher Schlemmer's motorized RC Rotating iPad Viewing Stand tilts and swivels via infrared remote control to ensure optimal viewing. Dual two-watt speakers in the base connect to the tablet via Bluetooth, while a USB port charges the device. Buttons on the base provide manual controls. Compatible with iPad Air and Mini models, third- and fourth-generation iPads, Samsung Galaxy and Galaxy Note. hammacher.com

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MOOD LIGHTING
▲ Michael Anastassiades's IC Light floor and table lamps incorporate both steel and glass. A blown-glass opal diffuser accompanies the minimalist structure, which is finished in brass. The round base of the floor lamp mimics the sphere above it. The light can be dimmed to fit any mood. usa.flos.com



MEMORY LANE
▲ Audio-Technica's AT-LP60 Turntable System, now available in snazzy blue and red at amazon.com, takes listeners back in time—with a few differences. Today's version is a fully automatic, fully equipped belt-drive turntable with a pre-mounted phono cartridge and a built-in, switchable phono preamp that connects it directly to a computer, stereo or other audio component. Also available in classic silver and black through shopaudiotechnica.com.

MOLECULAR MODEL
▼ Part of Corbett's 2015 collection, Element resembles a cluster of molecules. Made of handcrafted, bronzed iron, it combines smoked- and frosted-glass orbs and is suspended by aircraft cables. corbettlighting.com



ALL IN ONE
▼ This multifunctional floor lamp was designed by Atelier Van Lieshout for Moooi. It boasts an uplight at the top, a wide downlight, and task lighting that illuminates a conveniently attached side table. Made of aluminum with a black finish. moooi.com





SCULPTURAL STYLE
▲ Designed by Hervé Van Der Straeten for Ralph Pucci International, Lampe Micmac 382 is part of a collection of fixtures distinguished by a sculptural bronze base. Shades made of taffeta convey a stylish mid-century look. ralphpucci.net.



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HOT TUB HEAVEN
▲ A new smart phone app called Spa Boy from Arctic Spas monitors and adjusts the water chemistry in your hot tub, ensuring that the pH balance, sanitizer levels and fluctuating temperatures are all perfectly regulated. Data is transmitted to a spa control center, which shows the results online and on the spa's topside display for analysis, adjustment and remote troubleshooting. arcticspas.ca

MADE IN AMERICA
▼ Wildwood Lamps is collaborating with American artisans on a collection of brightly hued table lamps that are all made in the U.S. Pictured here, Mildred, an hourglass-shaped ceramic lamp that comes in six different glazes and sits on a clear, acrylic base. wildwoodlamps.com



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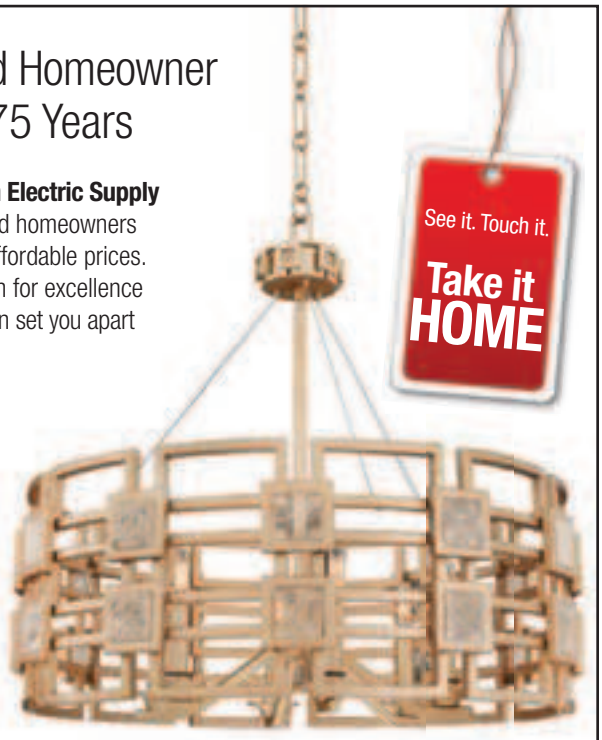
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A South Riding, Virginia, couple shared a large master closet that was essentially an empty shell. Tired of trying to create a place for everything in the builder-grade space, they tapped Deb Cantrell to make their closet stylish, functional and organized.



THEN	NOW
The only way to store clothes was on two single rods with an attached shelf. Shoes were lined up on the floor.	An extensive closet system offers many options for hanging clothes, as well as shelves with easy access to store and display shoes.
There were no convenient surfaces for laying out personal items or storing jewelry or accessories. The husband had no place to hang his ties.	A peninsula offers counter space; it includes drawers for jewelry and accessories. Pullout racks store the husband's ties conveniently.
There was no place to sit down.	A window seat enables the couple to put on shoes while seated.
The space was unappealing, with beige wall-to-wall carpet and dull lighting. The slanted ceiling felt low and oppressive.	Hardwood floors and decorative lighting dress up the space. The antique-white cabinetry creates a lighter, airy look.

Closet Design: Deb Cantrell, Closets By Design, Manassas, Virginia. Photography: Suhail Mir.

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kid central

A basement in disrepair becomes a colorful play space with storage options galore

A Cleveland Park couple with one child and a baby on the way hired Bruce Wentworth to turn their partially finished basement into a fun, vibrant playroom complete with a small bath and plenty of storage.

Before the project began, a disused oil tank had to be removed. This opened up the east-facing wall, which includes three windows—two of which are installed within a square bay. Sloppy, intrusive ductwork was rerouted and narrowed to maximize the height of the seven-foot ceiling. Now, a bulkhead in the center of the room accommodates a structural beam; it's bordered by coves fitted with rope lighting.

"Wherever possible, the highest ceiling areas were maintained to create the illusion of a taller space," Wentworth says.

A custom storage-and-bookcase unit was designed around the windows within the bay, creating an attractive focal point in the room. In order to accommodate the 1926 home's problematic sloped basement floor, the built-in units have a recessed, four-inch-high toe kick that makes them look like they're floating, thus concealing the irregular surface. The lower-level drawers store board games and toys while the upper ones hold books. A second built-in unit incorporates cozy seating in a niche under the stairwell.

Wentworth and his team worked with decorator Nicole Lanteri to select colors and furnishings. Since the couple likes a Mid-Century Modern look, Lanteri chose bright pops of color inspired by that era for paint, upholstery and pillows. "Clients often find they want to be bolder with playrooms," Wentworth observes. "They want a different look from the rest of the house. It can be a refreshing change."





Renovation Architecture: Bruce Wentworth, AIA; Michael Merschat, AIA, Wentworth, Inc., Chevy Chase, Maryland. Color & Furniture Selection: Nicole Lanteri, Nicole Lanteri Design, Arlington, Virginia. Photography: Geoffrey Hodgdon.







BRUCE WENTWORTH'S

TRADE SECRETS

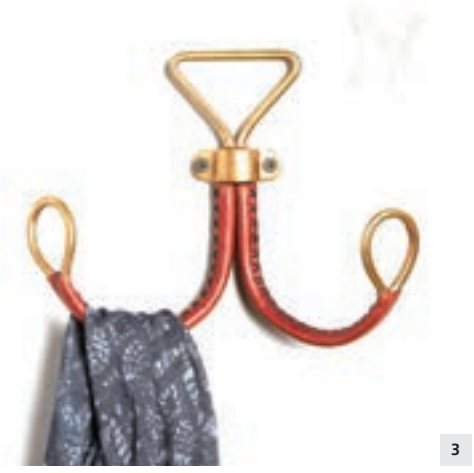
- When finishing a basement space, consider using porcelain tile on the floor if there are moisture issues.
- Remember that you can move or change the dimension of ductwork if it's in the way. In this case, Wentworth moved it away from the window wall to raise the ceiling height and bring in more light.
- If the floor is very sloped, as in this house, a liquid leveler will even it. However, that is an expensive solution. In this home, built-ins were designed to look like they're floating. This is a trick that hides irregularities.
- Be sure the basement design utilizes all extra space for storage.
- Have fun with a playroom space. Here, in addition to bright, playful colors, the design team implemented chalkboard and magnetic paint.

hang it up

snazzy wall hooks clear up clutter

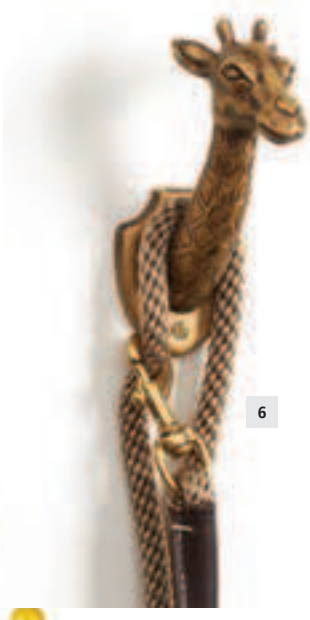

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1. WHALE TAIL HOOK. Cast iron; $39 for four. birchlane.com. **2.** MONROE TRADES RUSTIC HOOK. Hand-assembled pipe; $18; westelm.com. **3.** EQUESTRIAN HOOK. Iron and leather; $32. anthropologie.com. **4.** SMALL CERAMIC DOUBLE HOOKS. Metal and hand-painted ceramic; $28 for four. worldmarket.com. **5.** 2010 KAFKA SINGLE ROBE HOOK. Solid brass, hand-polished and plated; $49. restorationhardware.com. **6.** SAFARI GIRAFFE BRASS HOOK. Lacquered antique brass; $22.50. potterybarn.com. **7.** IDRA WALL-MOUNTED CLASSIC STYLE DOUBLE HOOK. Stilhaus by Nameeks. Brass with chrome finish; $119; wayfair.com. **8.** EAMES HANG-IT-ALL. Steel and wood; $199. dwr.com. **9.** REN BENTWOOD HANGER. Wood grain; $22. containerstore.com.



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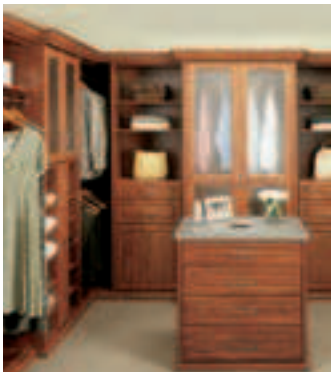
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STORAGE SOLUTIONS

■ According to author Jane Hughes, a recent study has shown that removing excess clutter could reduce housework in the average home by 40 percent. In **Pretty & Organized,** Hughes offers an answer to the problem: 30 innovative and stylish storage solutions for different rooms in the house, accompanied by inspirational color photographs and concise instructions. Firefly Books, Ontario, Canada; April 2015. $19.95.

ORGANIZING AS ART

■ Home-organization guru Fay Wolf, who is also an actress and a musician, brings a creative bent to her decluttering business, New Order, which she launched in 2006. Now, she has written **New Order: A Decluttering Handbook for Creative Folks (and Everyone Else),** an illustrated guide to decluttering, productivity and creativity—and how they're all connected. Ballantine Books, New York, New York; March 22, 2016. $20.

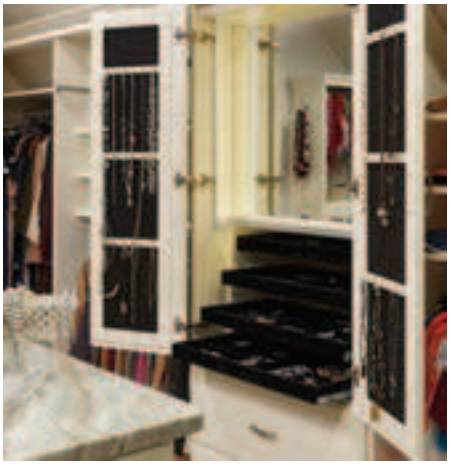
CLEAR THE CLUTTER

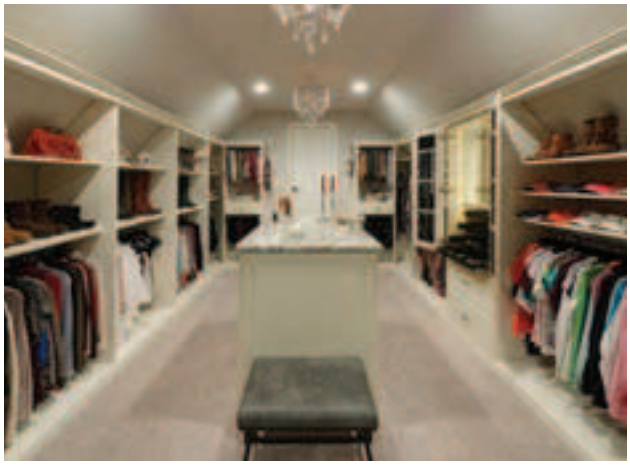
■ **The Complete Book of Home Organization: 336 Tips and Projects** helps readers clear the clutter out of every kind of home environment. In conjunction with the home-organization website abowlfulloflemons.net, author Toni Hammersley offers storage and cleaning tips, space-saving methods and a 14-week total home-organization challenge. Step-by-step instructions, illustrations and handy checklists abound. Weldon Owen, San Francisco, California; January 5, 2016. $22.

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the art of color



The original dining room of the 2015 Baltimore Symphony Decorator Show House was somber and dark. When she signed on to redesign it, Paula Henry envisioned the opposite: a bright, colorful space that, she says, "would honor the older home but feel contemporary."



THEN	NOW
The walls and wainscoting were painted dingy green, with lots of ornate decorative moldings.	White millwork contrasts with abstract watercolor art that has been digitally printed on wallpaper. The original moldings on the walls frame each section.
Dark-stained, traditional furniture looked dated and boring.	A lacquered sideboard from Century complements the colors while white Bernhardt furniture "lets the walls be the star."
A built-in china cabinet added nothing to the space.	A wine rack, installed by Summerhill Cabinets, holds bottles and glasses.
Sconces were the only source of light.	A chandelier by Visual Comfort and lamps from Arteriors illuminate the space.

Interior Design: Paula A. Henry, Simply Put Interiors, Inc., Reisterstown, Maryland. Decorative Art: Dee Cunningham, Cunningham Studios, Ellicott City, Maryland. Photography: Alain Jaramillo.



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organic mix

Custom art and furniture enhance the architecture of an Annapolis home

A couple who tapped architect Cathy Purple Cherry to design their waterfront home had a very specific vision for their new abode. They wished it to embrace its surroundings through the use of organic materials, providing a strong connection to the outdoors as well as a backdrop to art they had collected over the years.

The finished house showcases giant stone slabs, Douglas fir woodwork, hand-rubbed walnut floors and a floating staircase of wood, steel and glass. Purple Cherry and designer Arlene Critzos found ways to highlight artwork that runs the gamut from paintings and sculpture to fossils embedded in stone. Critzos designed furniture that quietly supports this aesthetic. "The mission was not to compete with the architecture," she says.

In the husband's office (opposite, top), the stone fireplace is a work of art in itself. A live-edge desk—fabricated from a walnut slab by Hudson Furniture—occupies center stage, while the low-slung slate coffee table is intentionally unobtrusive. The custom chandelier was fabricated by Bob Jones Lighting Specialists.

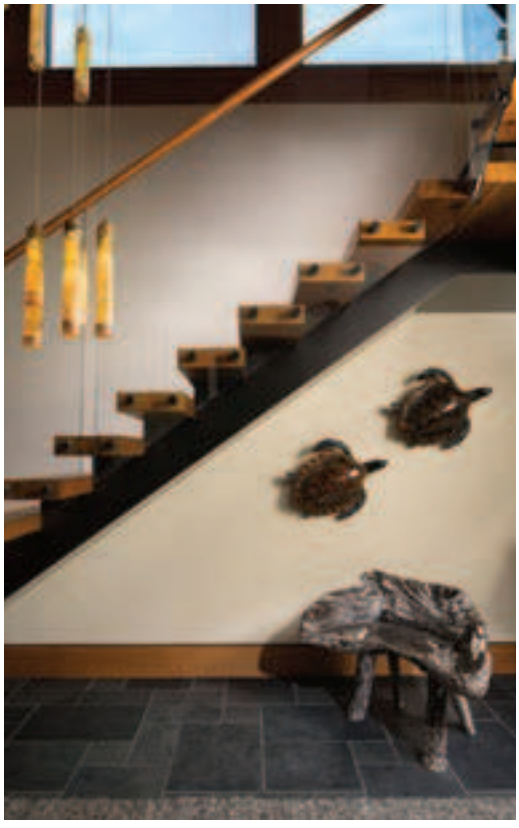
In the great room (right), the stone fireplace wall complements a painting by Ashley Collins; it conceals a TV. In a hallway, Purple Cherry created a niche for an ancient piece of fossilized stone (opposite, bottom left). Gutierrez Studios fabricated the staircase, which on the lower level (opposite, bottom right) frames wall sculptures of turtles and a bench of petrified rainforest wood. A 27-foot, hand-blown glass light fixture, fabricated by Shakúff, adorns the stairwell. "We were blessed," says Purple Cherry. "We had a client who appreciated creativity."

Architecture: Cathy Purple Cherry, AIA, LEED AP, Purple Cherry Architects, Annapolis, Maryland. Interior Design: Arlene Critzos and Catherine Belkov, Interior Concepts, Annapolis, Maryland. Builder: Bret Anderson, Pyramid Builders, Annapolis, Maryland. Photography: David Burroughs.









ARLENE CRITZOS'S

TRADE SECRETS

■ I look at art two ways: Either it's the main feature and the room pays homage to it, or it's the opposite—the room speaks and the art fills in. The client should determine which is the right answer for them.

■ Before you begin, ask yourself if there's something special you want to showcase in your home. A designer can help you figure out the right balance.

■ Blend your furniture and art by deciding which comes first. In this case, the architecture was first, the art was second and the furniture third.

■ Art means different things to different people. It can be anything. I designed a room recently around framed floating scarves by Hermès.

■ Architecture should rule; interior design should come second.

lavish loveseats *from innovative to iconic*



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1. MONA SOFETTE. Velvet; $1,720. mgbwhome.com. **2.** U SOFA. Design by Niels Bendtsen. Injection-molded foam; starts at $3,717. apartmentzero.com; bensen.ca. **3.** DELTA SETTEE. Fabric or leather, nail-head trim, wood base in assorted finishes; $2,490. jessicacharles.com. **4.** MOEL. Design by Inga Sempé; polyurethane foam; $4,150. ligne-roset-usa.com. **5.** TRANSITIONAL LOVE SEAT. Walnut and acacia; $7,335. jonathancharlesfurniture.com. **6.** GIMME SHELTER. Design by Diesel Creative Team. Foam seat, varnished-steel base, removable covers; starts at $4,900. moroso.it. **7.** ST. GERMAIN SETTEE. Tufted seat, nail-head trim; $3,499. taylorking.com. **8.** FOLIAGE. Design by Patricia Urquiola for Kartell. Coated-iron base and foam-stuffed fabric; starts at $3,850. apartmentzero.com; kartell.com. **9**. KNOLL A&A TWO-SEAT SOFA. Design by Pierre Beucler and Jean Christophe Poggioli; foam-wrapped plywood on welded steel in polished chrome or copper with urethane-foam cushions; $4,164. dwr.com; knoll.com.

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quality control

How can consumers gauge furniture quality and staying power?

JIM SHRAWDER
Sheffield Furniture & Interiors

Before purchasing any piece of furniture, there are a number of factors worth considering. First, the quality of a piece can reliably be gauged by the length of time for which the manufacturer or retailer will guarantee the materials and construction. Additionally, the following guidelines will give consumers an idea of how long their furniture should last if it's made well: Upholstery should last eight to 12 years before needing to be replaced; tables, cabinetry and bedsteads should last eight to 12 years before needing to be refinished; and mattresses should last as long as 15 years.

The best indicator that a furniture style will remain current and not look dated is the length of time it has already been in style. Most new styles fade out within five to 10 years, while many of the classic looks have been in style for 50 years and sometimes much longer.

JOHN W. SMITH
Willem Smith, FurnitureWorks

At Willem Smith, we love that question. We have devised an easy methodology we call 20-5-1. This means at 20 feet, trust your first impression; at five feet, look at workmanship to see if stitching is uniform, joints square and surfaces without flaws; and at one foot, use your hands to determine how the piece feels. Open the drawers, give it a shove. If it's seating, try it out. Think about firmness, seat depth and your lower back. If you use the 20-5-1 method and the piece seems solid, it probably is.

With respect to longevity, not surprisingly, a leather club chair will be functional and look great in almost any setting for all time, while a chartreuse, leopard-print screen might be more era- and taste-specific. But not everything you buy needs to have heirloom aspirations: If it passes 20-5-1 and works in your space, live a bit and enjoy it.

JOANNE RODRIGUEZ, Allied ASID
Joanne Rodríguez Interior Design

As a designer, I am committed to informing clients about the details of their furniture purchases and, if possible, showing them personally exactly what they can expect in terms of quality. Sometimes a tear sheet alone will not demonstrate all of a piece's unique features. Fortunately, we have the amazing Washington Design Center, which allows us to demonstrate first-hand for clients what they are getting when they buy a fine, high-quality piece of furniture. I put a premium on seeing a piece in person, learning about the materials used to fabricate it, and helping the client see how it will function in their space.

When it comes to making choices, I recommend my clients keep it simple: While trends like bold colors and patterns, and weathered, washed or even painted and lacquered finishes may be appealing at the time, style preferences may change in a couple of years.



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"We know that items must not only fit your room, they must be deliverable despite limited access due to narrow doors, tight staircases, etc. So we look for furniture with smaller measurements or removable components," explains Scott Hughey.

Creative Classics feels that American-made furniture is better crafted and more environmentally friendly, made of solid North American hardwoods in a variety of finishes and wood species. The sales staff is salaried, so they're never pushy. A licensed interior designer on staff makes home visits. "Our goal is to help make your home comfortable, functional and beautiful," Hughey says.



PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Owners Scott and Rachel Hughey (top). The company's solid-wood dining tables all feature expansion leaves that conveniently store inside the table (above). Because it has no metal bars or springs, the Comfort Sleeper (right) provides unsurpassed comfort as both a sofa and a bed. Its patented, space-saving design is available in mattress sizes from cot to king.

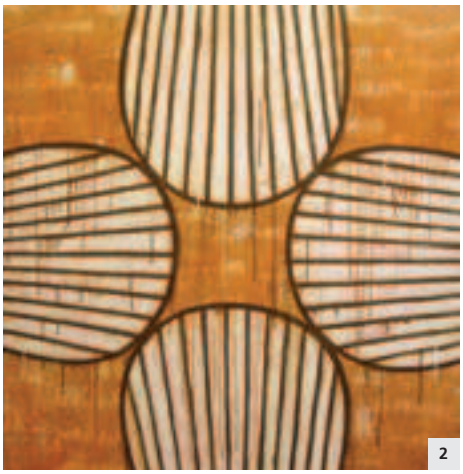


906 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 • 703-518-4663
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gallery scene

a roundup of stellar work by local artists


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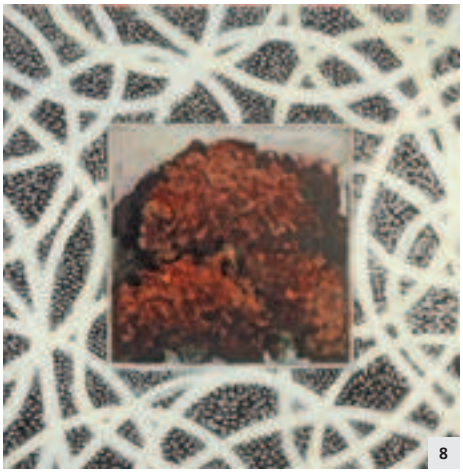

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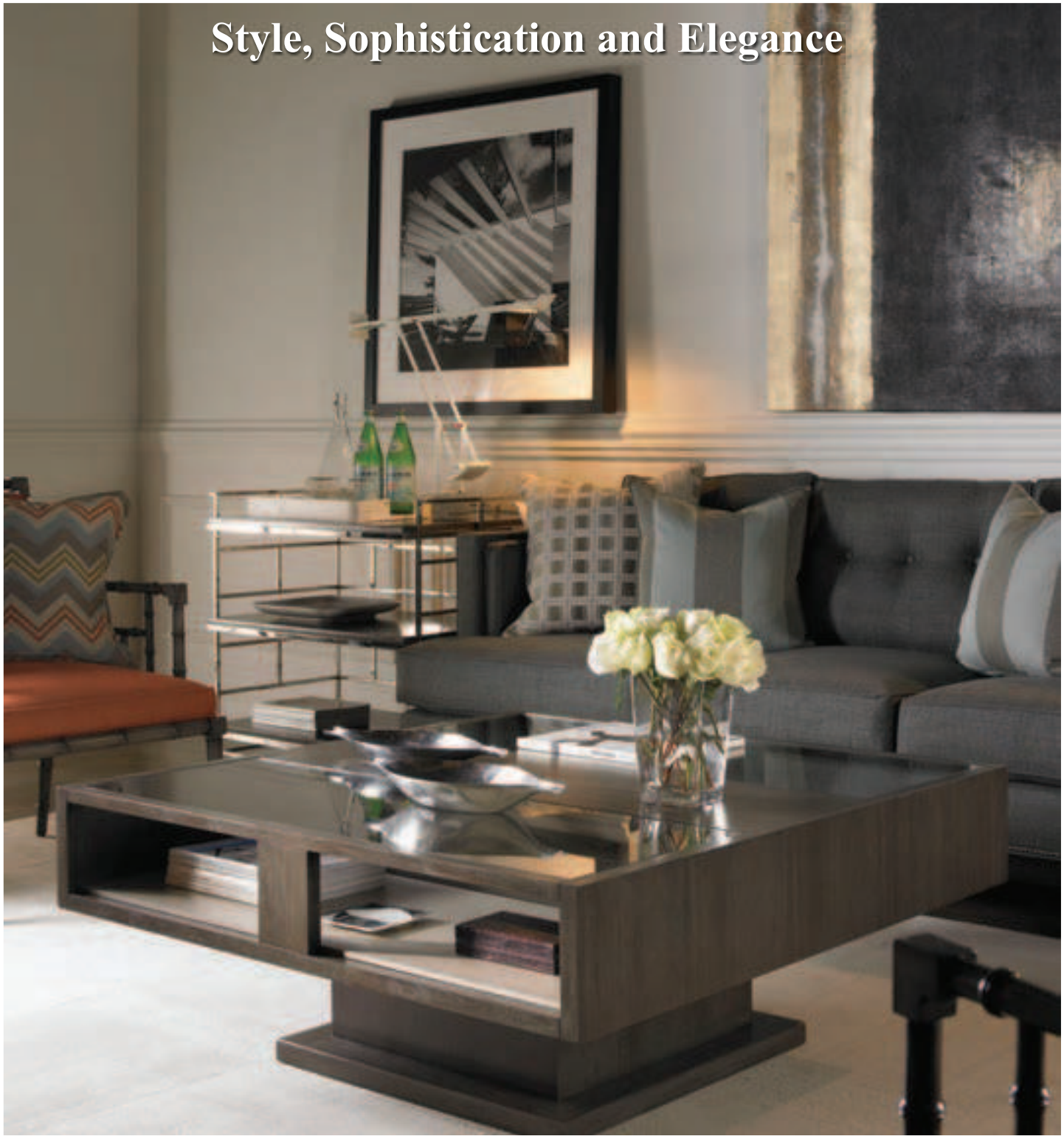

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1. DREAM OF THE SEA by Emily Piccirillo. Oil, acrylic, canvas, stainless steel; $3,000. zenithgallery.com. **2.** OVER UNDER SIDEWAYS DOWN #11 by Steven Cushner. Acrylic on canvas; price on request. hemphillfinearts.com. **3.** LANDSCAPE by Shahin Shikhaliyev. Oil on canvas; $3,300. callowayart.com. **4.** BLUE CLARITY by Vitali Miagkov. Oil on canvas; price on request. renaissancefinearts.com. **5.** BRILLIANT SKY by Raoul Middleman. Oil on linen; $10,900. troikagallery.com. **6.** DESERT SKY by Brian Williams. Oil on aluminum; $1,400. adahrosegallery.com. **7.** SEVEN YEARS TALL by Elaine Florimonte. Acrylic on panel; $950. touchstonegallery.com. **8.** UNTITLED #4 by Edith Kuhnle. Acrylic on canvas; $6,500. addisonripleyfineart.com. **9.** BLUE POLES by Robert Stuart. Oil and wax on canvas; price on request. longviewgallerydc.com.

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editors' picks





MODERN ICON
▲ First designed by French architect and Modernist Charlotte Perriand in 1962, the Rio table has recently been re-issued by Cassina. Ingeniously constructed from six staggered sections, the table has an outer edge of black-stained or natural oak and a surface of rattan, white Carrara or black Marquina marble. cassina.com

BED TIME
▲ The Volare bed by Roberto Lazzeroni for Poltrona Frau marries four solid-ash posters with a headboard of beech and birch and a tulipwood footboard—both upholstered in leather. Pillows are attached to the headboard by leather belts. poltronafrau.com

OVER THE MOON
► A crescent-moon motif dominates Laura Kirar's Luna Mirror, part of the designer's collection for Baker. Made of a composite material with the look of cast metal, the mirror has a roughened surface finished in Bronze or Fonderie. bakerfurniture.com





OFF ITS ROCKER
◄ The iconic 500 Series Chair was designed by Geoffrey Harcourt in 1967 with a swivel base—and reintroduced by Artifort as a rocking chair in 2013. With its shell-shaped seat and base of tubular steel and oak, it's as stylish and comfortable as ever. Available through Apartment Zero in fabric or leather. apartmentzero.com

INDUSTRIAL CHIC
▼ Using recycled materials, Phoenix-based furniture maker Vintage Industrial creates case goods and seating that reflect an industrial edge. Pictured here, the Large Ellis Console is made from reclaimed boxcar wood, and has a steel-and-mesh front and locking casters.
retro.net





SIT IN STYLE
▲ Roche Bobois's streamlined, asymmetrical Reportage Rounded 4-Seat Sofa was designed by Philippe Bouix with comfort in mind. Feather-stuffed back cushions can be positioned independently. The seat is made of foam and cotton batting and the frame is wood, metal and plywood, with a base of black-stained beech.
roche-bobois.com

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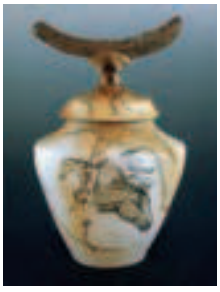
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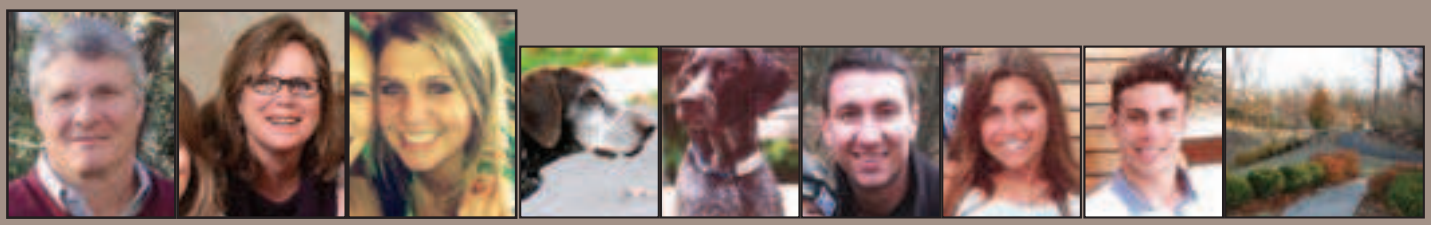




A Different Kind of Family Portrait



"The Gretzinger Family" 4ft x 6ft acrylic on canvas



Gary *Nancy* *Nikole* *Jasmine* *Jake* *Beau* *Steph* *James* *Middleburg Farm*

Nancy first saw David Cochran's portraits in a magazine and she loved how he captured not only the looks, but the personalities of his subjects. She called David for information and learned that he creates an acrylic painting of a family, working from the client's photographs (NO sittings!) and depicts them in a personalized background.

She also learned that a painting can be any size and can include as many or as few people as desired, even incorporating family members of former generations. The price and time frame seemed reasonable so she confirmed a commission. Nancy (CEO of Imagex, Inc) wanted this painting as a Christmas surprise for her husband, Gary. David assured her that this would be no problem. She wanted to include their daughter Nikole and her three cousins.

So last fall, Dave began. He found many visually interesting things in Nancy's life through her photographs. They own a 100 acre farm in Middleburg where race horses are trained, so the horses were included. The family adores their pets, so three dogs and a cat (both past and present) were also included. The background includes their gazebo fireplace with the farm on the left side and the family's favorite Caribbean vacation spot on the right.

This 4ft x 6ft painting was unveiled on Christmas, much to the surprise of the family. Gary described it as, "...the coolest present EVER!"

Giclée prints of this painting were given to various family members.

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curb appeal



The owners of a rambler in McLean hired Anthony Wilder Design Build to renovate portions of its interiors while also adding curb appeal to the mundane front façade of the house.



THEN	NOW
The front was flat and featureless and the single roofline was boring.	A den extends from the front. The roofline is varied by a square window in an A-frame structure. A gable on the other side of the entry adds interest.
The front door was nondescript, offering only a narrow overhang that provided no shelter from the weather.	There is space for a covered entryway and a bench. A decorative arch is a focal point.
The door was unappealing, with an ugly screen door in front of it.	The screen door is gone and the front door is painted dark, with new hardware.
A retaining wall and large, unwieldy shrubs hid the house.	New landscaping features a winding walkway that draws the eye to the front door.

Renovation Architecture: Anthony Wilder, Marian Vaias, AIA, Anthony Wilder Design Build, Cabin John, Maryland. Photography: Morgan Howarth.



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pool party

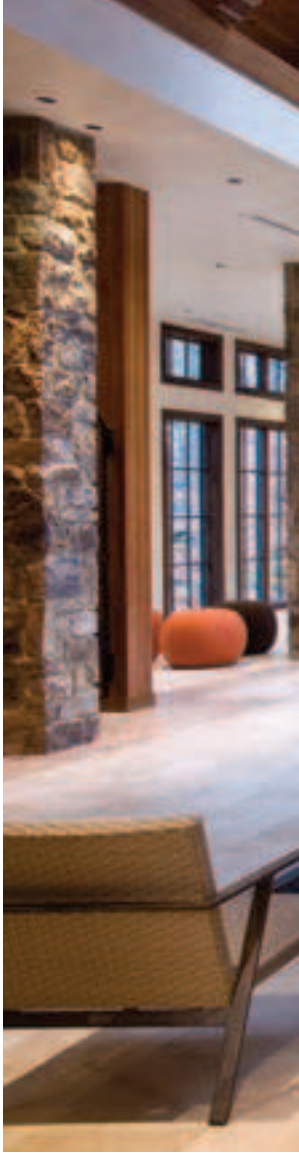
BOWA creates a lavish indoor pool area full of natural light

Repeat clients in Potomac contacted the design/build firm BOWA to add a great room and outdoor pool to their previously renovated property. But after some consideration, the owners and design team opted to combine the two. "They decided to build an indoor pool with adjacency to the new great room," recalls principal Steve Kirstein. BOWA partnered with architect David Cooper of Anderson Cooper Group Architects on a design that connects the two spaces.

The great room measures a spacious 30 by 50 feet—and the pool area dwarfs it at 45 by 70 feet. The challenge was to create spaces that felt light and airy despite their size. BOWA constructed a dramatic vaulted ceiling over the pool using timber trusses. Two massive, custom skylight panels, each measuring 16 by 30 feet, were installed on either side of the pitched roof; each boasts 36 five-by-five-foot square mullions. Glass doors by LaCantina fold back into pockets to separate the spaces; when open, they allow for easy entertaining. The doors seal the pool off entirely from the great room "so there's no pool smell," explains Kirstein. The climate in the pool area is also controlled separately.

The pool area is contained by a combination of eight-foot-tall, floor-to-ceiling Windsor windows (with mullions that match the skylight panels) and more glass folding doors designed to bring in as much light as possible. Above the doors and windows are two-foot-high transoms, a number of which open electronically. The doors lead out to the surrounding patio; when they are folded and tucked away, the pool area becomes part of the outdoors. "The concept was to feel like you're outside when you're in the pool area," Kirstein says.







Renovation Design/Build: Steve Kirstein, BOWA, McLean, Virginia. Interior Design: Sharon Kleinman, Transitions by Sharon Kleinman, Potomac, Maryland. Photography: Gwin Hunt.



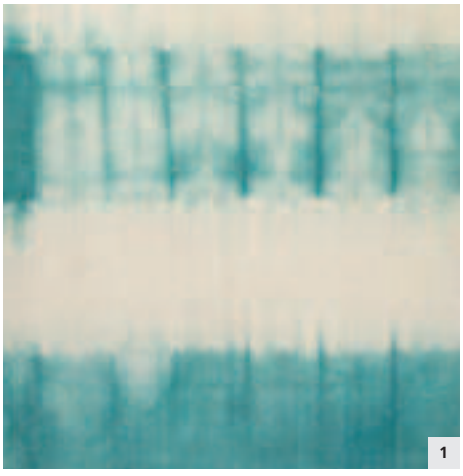
STEVE KIRSTEIN'S

TRADE SECRETS

- When possible, use maintenance-free exteriors on doors and windows.
- Transoms paired with standard-size doors and windows reduce budget and add height.
- Consider door swings and "travel lanes" prior to ordering furniture.
- While maximizing glass size, allow for trim plus a bit extra so the details will work out.
- Consider the path of the sun and the resulting views before determining window and door locations.
- A high window or large skylight may be the best option on a tight project site. Provide windows at the end of passages and ensure multiple light sources.
- Many product lines offer a split finish, with the inside stained or painted to complement the interior finishes while the outside is pre-finished.

cutting a rug

fabulous flatweaves look great underfoot


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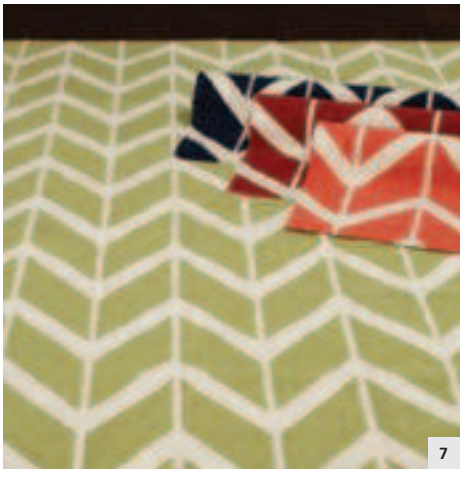

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1. AGUA COLLECTION, IN ASHWOOD. Made in India of wool; $52 to $576. burkedecor.com. **2.** TULIP BELIZE. Handwoven in India of New Zealand wool; $396 to $2,310. aimeewilder.com. **3.** FLATWEAVE WOOL DHURRIE. Handwoven in India; $839. abchome.com. **4.** LUCY PINK INDOOR/OUTDOOR RUG. Crafted of recycled materials; $92 to $2,107. dashandalbert.annieselke.com. **5.** SUNDARI KILIM RUG. Wool with cotton fringe; $78 to $998. garnethill.com. **6.** ADLER COLLECTION. Wool, handwoven in India; $339 to $2,389. loloirugs.com. **7.** CHEVRON FLATWEAVE RUG. Handwoven wool; $299 to $799. neimanmarcus.com. **8**. SARTO EMBROIDERED FLATWEAVE RUG, IN CHARCOAL. Undyed, hand-spun wool in Moroccan motif; $699 to $3,899. restorationhardware.com. **9.** AVA DHURRIE. Handwoven in India of wool, cotton and lurex; $395 to $1,595. serenaandlily.com.



STEP UP TO THE LATEST INNOVATIONS IN FLOORCOVERING DESIGN

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A wide-plank Oak Vulcano floor from mafi-America with a natural oil finish.

cutting edge

What are the latest trends in your field?

MANSOUR ZAMANI
Farsh Carpets
The latest trends in carpets and rugs are toward large-scale geometric patterns and soft, neutral colors. As home decoration becomes more modern, traditional Oriental carpets are less and less in vogue, replaced by more contemporary looks. Wool continues to be the most popular fiber, with the widest variety of choices. Nylon is popular for high-traffic areas, and viscose is also popular—though we don't recommend it because it doesn't hold up very well.

We are seeing a lot of hide rugs in geometric patterns; they have the advantage that their patterns and colors can be completely customized. Shag rugs in both nylon and wool are prevalent for kids' rooms and family rooms. They look cozy and the wool ones tend to look a bit more elegant. Sisal rugs continue to be popular, as are woven-wool carpets and runners with leather bindings or nail-head trim.

WALTER LOURIE
mafi-America, Inc.
What I'm finding in the wood-flooring arena is an increasing draw to very high-quality, one-of-a-kind products. Clients are willing to spend more on flooring as they realize it is one of the most important parts of any renovation or custom-building project. Even in rental or multi-family construction, we are noticing this trend; clearly, better construction materials equal higher value and increased returns.

I have also seen a move towards European or American-made products, and an awareness of what products are made of. For example, VOC ratings are of utmost importance, as 25 million people in the U.S. suffer from asthma—a statistic that has been directly related to our indoor environments. Along these lines, there is a draw to natural products that employ simpler finishes like linseed oil. Natural woods and shades of gray, subtle white, beige and taupe are in.

TRICIA KESLING
Clark Hall Doors
We are finding that ultra-slim profile steel doors and windows are in demand. They are designed with slender stiles, rails and frames to maximize the amount of light they admit, and are made with steel because it is one of the only materials strong enough to provide the necessary support for their large glass openings.

This style dates back to the early 20th century, when greenhouses constructed of iron and steel were popular. Today, the clean, simple lines of ultra-slim profile doors and windows lend themselves to contemporary design, while their historical significance also makes them appropriate for traditional applications. Often, doors and windows will sport geometric patterns in a variety of configurations to create a contemporary look, and arches and other details will be added for traditional settings. Just a reminder: Be sure to use Low-E insulated glass to maintain energy efficiency.

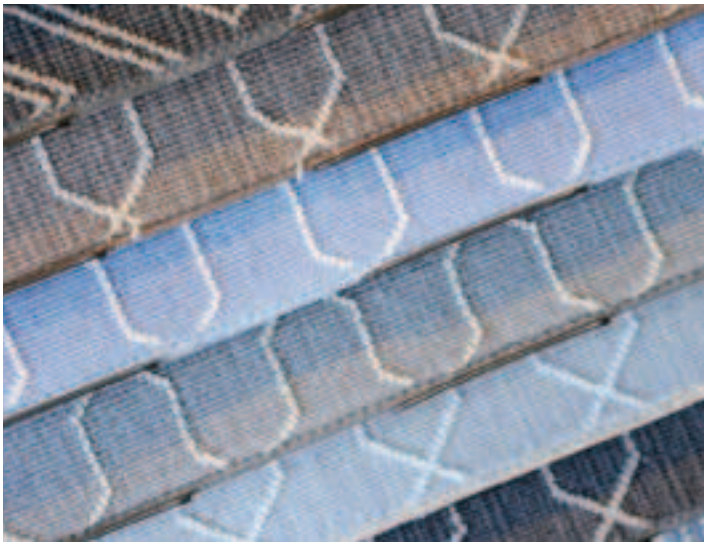
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editors' picks

SUSTAINABLE STYLE
► Like New York's transformation of an historic train track into the scenic park that bears its name, the High Line collection by Architectural Systems is an eco-friendly innovation. This line of vinyl-plank flooring replicates the look of natural wood in 14 colorways. Made of recycled content, the product is also low-emitting. archsystems.com



MOODY BLUES
▼ The Bali carpet by New Moon Rugs contrasts a background of gray Tibetan wool with totemic details in dusty silver, cornflower blue and blue-gray Chinese silk. All of New Moon's rugs are made using age-old Nepalese methods; the company also supports the GoodWeave program to end child labor. newmoonrugs.com



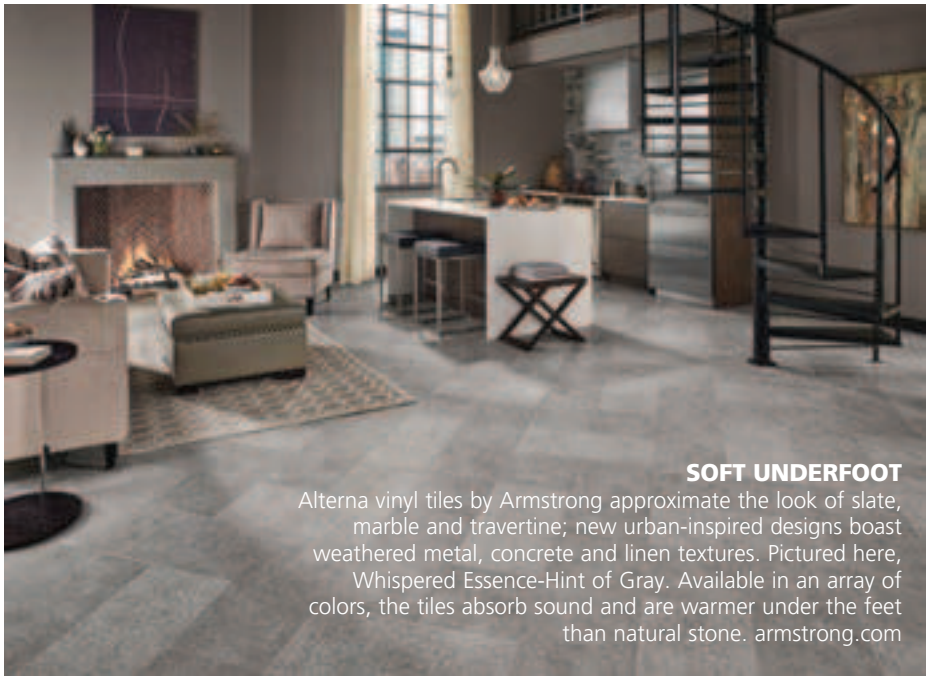


LET THERE BE LIGHT
▲ Hy-Lite's new Home Designer Collection introduces windows that let in light but afford privacy. The windows are available in an eclectic range of styles to suit any interior look, from Mission to Prairie and Baroque. Metro (pictured) features a wrought-iron frame and an exterior layer of textured glass that creates an opaque surface. hy-lite.com

CEMENT THE DEAL

▼ One of the latest trends in flooring, cement tiles come in a range of colors and styles. Architectural Ceramics' encaustic Sevilla tiles (pictured) are made by hand using a blend of cement, marble powder, sand and natural mineral pigments. They are suitable for vertical and horizontal surfaces. architecturalceramics.com





SOFT UNDERFOOT

Alterna vinyl tiles by Armstrong approximate the look of slate, marble and travertine; new urban-inspired designs boast weathered metal, concrete and linen textures. Pictured here, Whispered Essence-Hint of Gray. Available in an array of colors, the tiles absorb sound and are warmer under the feet than natural stone. armstrong.com

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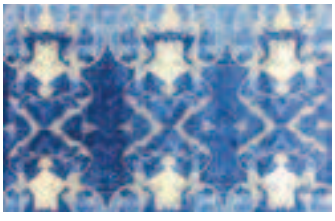
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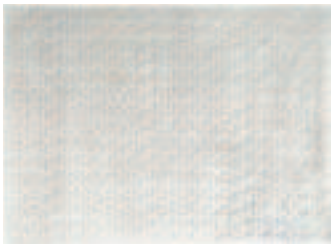
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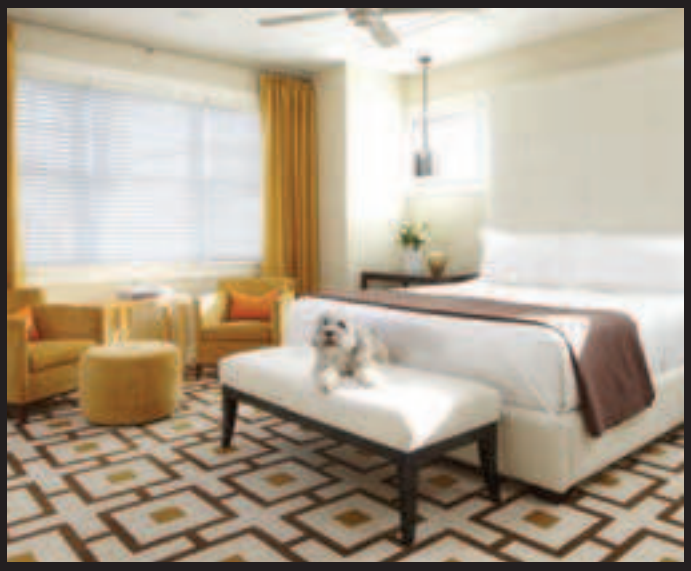


When the owner of a historic Georgetown row house married, he and his wife hired Ame Gold to turn his thrown-together bachelor pad—including the living room—into a space that would merge their tastes and feel like a home.



THEN	NOW
The fireplace wall was dated-looking, with niches for art that took up space but were not useful.	The niches have been closed up and wood shelves display accessories, with a built-in cupboard on one side.
A black-painted fireplace surround was dark and boring; plain white walls didn't help.	Mother-of-pearl mosaic tile surrounds the fireplace, while the interior was lightened with white paint. A grasscloth wall covering draws the eye.
A sparse mishmash of furnishings left the room feeling empty, with no place to gather.	An existing sofa was repurposed in the living room; coffee tables from Lexington Home Brands and a Century armchair make the space inviting.
A ceiling fixture and undressed windows left the room cold.	Recessed lights and Kravet draperies convey warmth.

Interior Design: Ame Gold, Patricia Gold Interiors, Inc., Fairfax Station, Virginia. Photography: Gwin Hunt.





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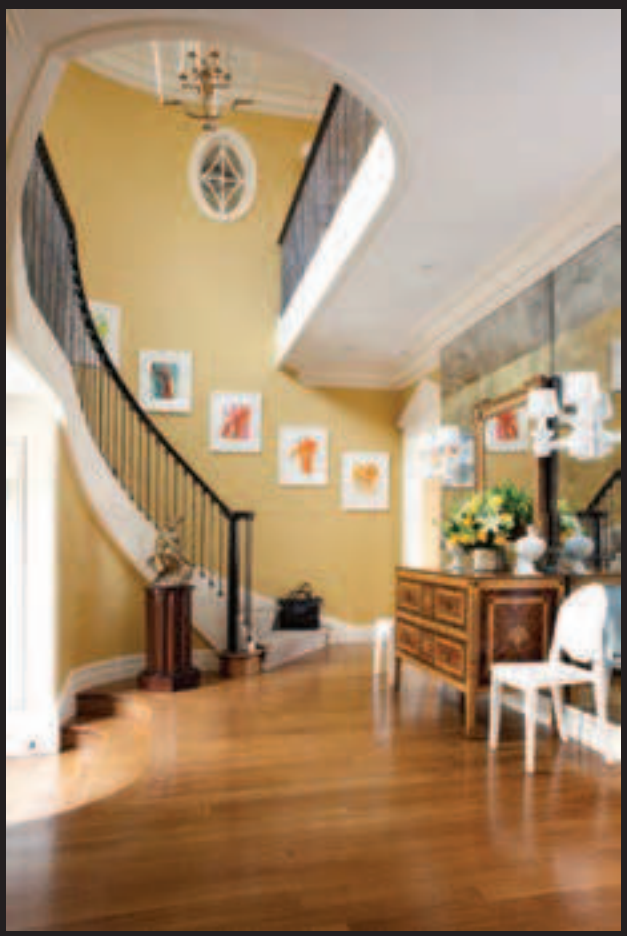
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easy living

Clean lines complement the open-plan kitchen and family room of a Middleburg home

Celia Welch subscribes to the notion that less is more when it comes to interior design. "My style is grounded in simplicity," she explains. "Ultimately, I believe that simple designs lead to ease of living."

This philosophy underlies all of her projects, and it's what attracted a couple building a custom home in the Middleburg area. They brought Welch in at the start of the process, asking her to work closely with their builder, Visnic Homes, to create an elegant yet comfortable abode that capitalizes on its bucolic surroundings; the kitchen and adjacent family room exemplify the team's success.

The house is located on a golf course, so retaining unimpeded views was a high priority. The two-story family room and adjacent kitchen are flanked by windows and French doors; solar shades can be tucked away and draperies frame the window and door openings.

To delineate the kitchen and sitting area, Welch designed a granite-topped, walnut display shelf. The kitchen boasts custom Shaker-style cabinetry and Carrara marble counters and backsplash. The kitchen opens to a breakfast nook where a rustic round table is artfully paired with bright red Windsor chairs from Maine Cottage. Welch designed a cabinet that beautifully displays the couple's pottery collection along one wall.

Most of the furniture is new to the house. An existing Baker sofa was reupholstered for the sitting area and Welch selected a metal coffee table and wood-framed chairs, both from Four Hands in California, to create "simple, soft lines with a touch of modern," she says. A restful landscape by John Brandon Sills adorns the mantel.

Builder: Ted Visnic, Visnic Homes, Rockville, Maryland. Interior Design: Celia Welch, Celia Welch Interiors, Bethesda, Maryland. Photography: Angie Seckinger.













CELIA WELCH'S

TRADE SECRETS

- Remember that keeping things simple, without too much clutter, allows the details to show. We used the same color metal for hardware, light fixtures and drapery rods—and they are more noticeable because the space is not cluttered.
- Stay close to your main concept.
- Look for different ways to add interest. Here, the interior doors are painted a different color from the trim and walls.
- With tall ceilings, there are tricks to imparting more human scale to a space. Hanging sconces and low pendants brings the eye down. In this room, a raised hearth made the fireplace taller.
- Use one flooring material throughout the house to keep things flowing. It will open up the space.
- Display shelves are a great way to introduce what is important to you.

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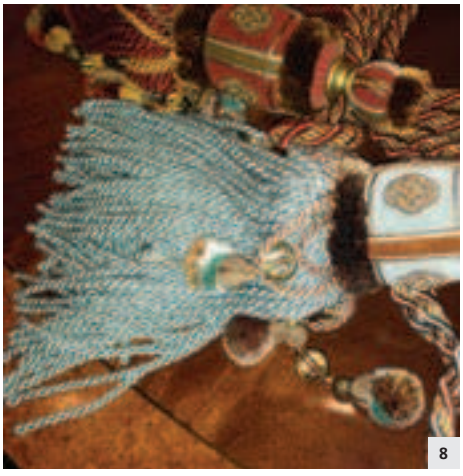

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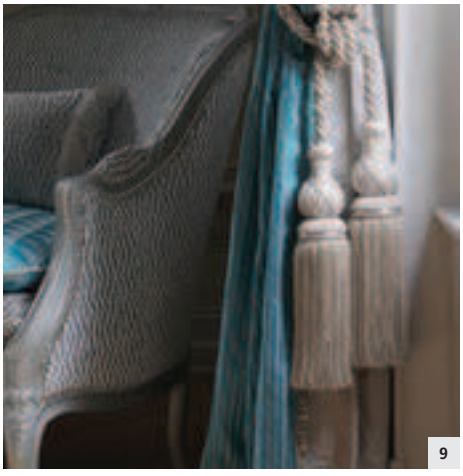

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1. KRAVET MODERN COLORS TRIM COLLECTION; kravet.com. **2** SAMUEL & SONS' SHANGRI-LA COLLECTION; samuelandsons.com. **3.** CHARLOTTE MOSS TRIMMINGS for Fabricut; fabricut.com. **4.** TIVOLI FRINGE PESTO and RIYA BRAID PESTO from Romo's Tivoli collection; romo.com. **5.** LIBRARY CORD in blue opal, CHEVRON BAND in cobalt and MODERN BEAD pompom trim in cobalt by Robert Allen; robertallen.com. **6.** CHARLES FAUDREE PASSEMENTERIE TRIMMINGS for Stroheim; stroheim.com. **7.** BARRY DIXON TRIM COLLECTION for Vervain; vervain.com. **8.** CUSTOM TIEBACK by Wendy Cushing Passementerie, based on the company's Tudor collection; wendycushingdesigns.com. **9.** SCARLETT PASSEMENTERIE COLLECTION BY HOULES; houles.com.


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A dining room designed by Terri Pakravan.

from plan to perfection

Talk about your design process. How do you go from creating a plan to a finished room?

TERRI PAKRAVAN
Décor Dose

I get a feel for the client and his/her wants, needs and wishes. The architecture of a space plays a big role, so I look at the scale and dimensions of a room carefully. Next, I think about color schemes (color is very important) and transitions from room to room. Is each room meant to be a jewel box, or is the house meant to be totally cohesive?

When it comes to furniture, I consider the clients' style: Is it modern, traditional or eclectic? Nowadays, you can mix every period, which is nice. Lighting is also important. What tasks will need to be lit? What about accent lights—the "jewelry" of a space? Accessories are last. I try to pull objects from the owners' collection and integrate them with found objects. Artwork is personal; I integrate the clients' art from the beginning. If purchasing art, I try to do so early.

MELISSA BROFFMAN, Allied ASID
Melissa Broffman Interior Design

I'm inspired by rooms that reflect the personalities of my clients, so I often use a treasured piece of artwork or family heirloom as a starting point. Photos from Houzz help me see what sparks interest, and a study of the architectural features and limitations of each space helps me decide how to approach the design. With measurements and an understanding of how the rooms will be used, I present clients with space and lighting plans so we can select the best design. I also prepare furniture, lighting options, fabric and finish samples. Long-term relationships with tradespeople give me and my clients access to the best design resources available. Lighting, architectural millwork, wallpaper and paint provide the backdrop. The process is complete once furniture is delivered, art and accessories are in place—and, of course, when the clients are pleased with the result.

DAVID CHENAULT
D2-Decorium Design, Ltd.

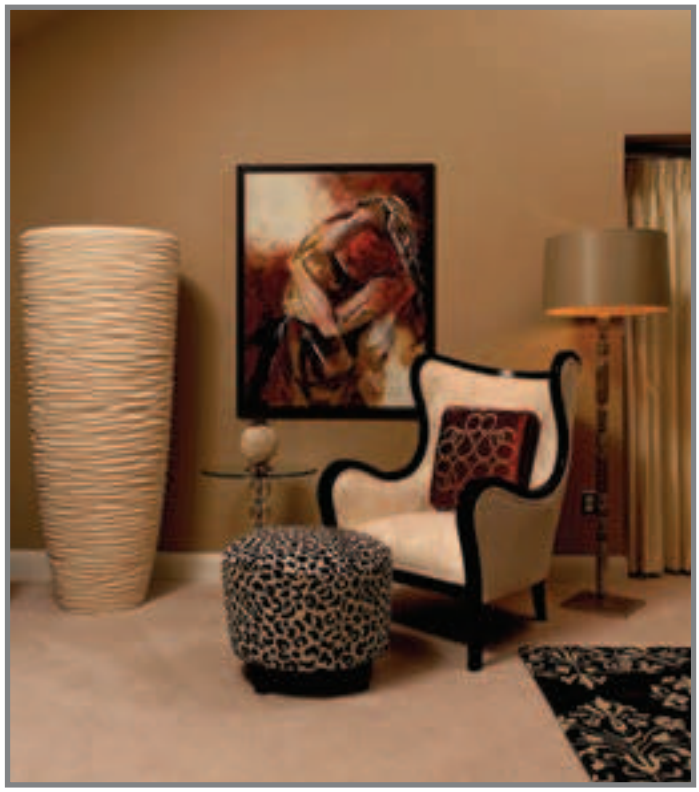
Before beginning a project, we visit clients at home and listen, take notes, photos and measurements. We then hand-draft plans and start space planning and furniture selection.

Pulling fabrics and details is the next step. At this point, we bring the client in to confirm selections. We then send everything to our accounting department to start pricing and finding out lead times. We review and make changes if needed.

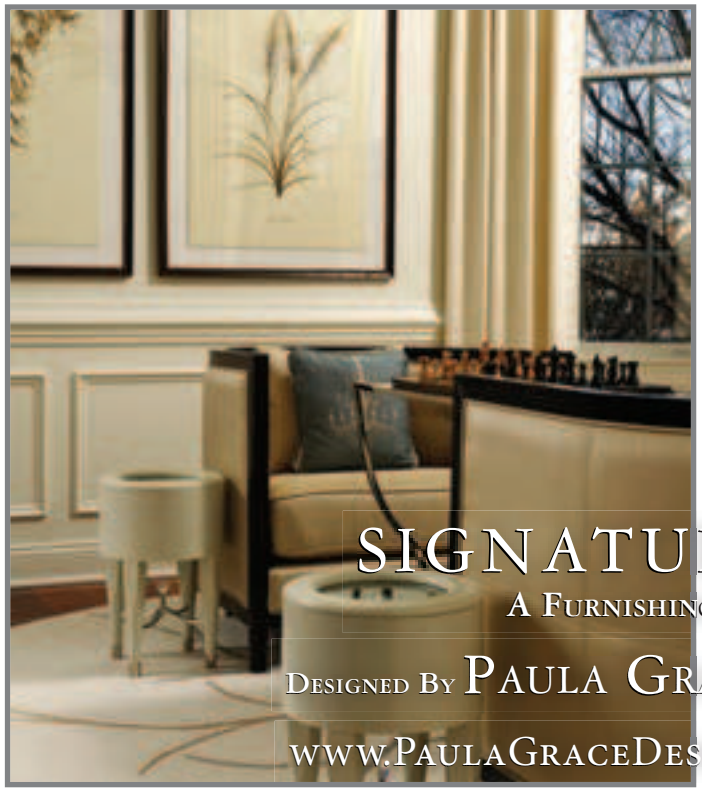
Once the client signs off on the project, the order process begins. Any architectural or structural changes are already underway; this phase may take weeks or months to complete. As we head into the final stage, we're installing wallpaper, lighting and draperies. Ideally, clients will go out of town during the final installation of furniture, art and accessories. We wait for them to come home, open their door and bask in their new space. This is the best part of every project!

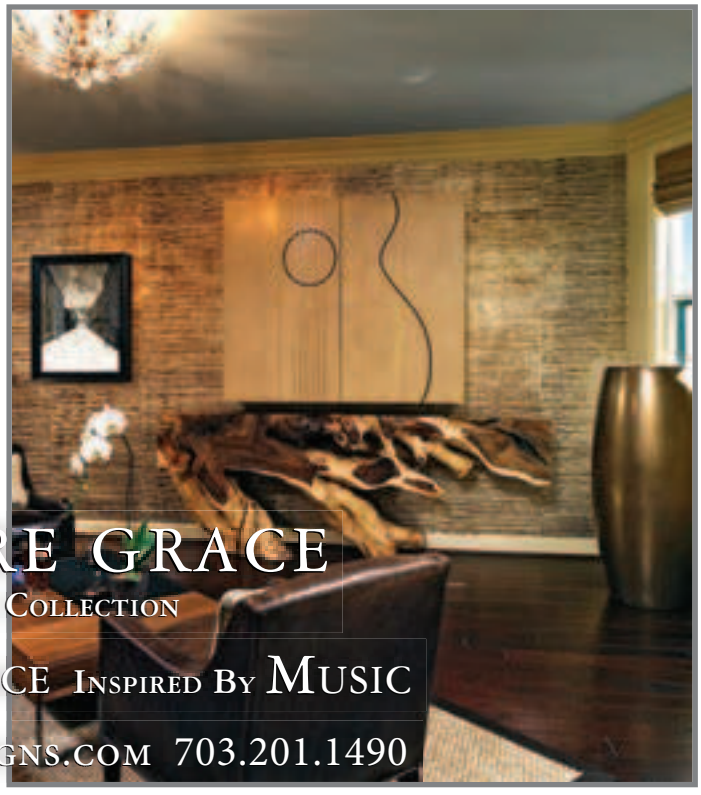
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editors' picks



MOD DIRECTION

◄ Clarke & Clarke's Salon collection salutes French Colonial design, but takes fabric in a new direction with vibrant palettes ranging from citron to chartreuse. Fabrics pictured: Valerie botanical, Vendome geometric and Palais velvets. The U.K.-based company's fabrics and wall coverings are available in the U.S. through Duralee. clarke-clarke.com



PURE GEOMETRY

▲ Jonathan Adler's Canaan Accent Table marries two conical forms in solid, carved marble with a brass sphere at its center. At 18 inches tall and 12 inches in diameter, the table brings function and style to the living room, library, bedroom or bath—especially where space is at a premium. jonathanadler.com

ICON REDUX

► The late Warren Platner is best known for his eponymous furniture collection, which just marked its 50th anniversary. To commemorate the milestone, Knoll has updated the line with a new 18k-gold-plated finish—an idea the architect entertained before the technology was viable. Pictured here, the Platner Coffee Table. knoll.com

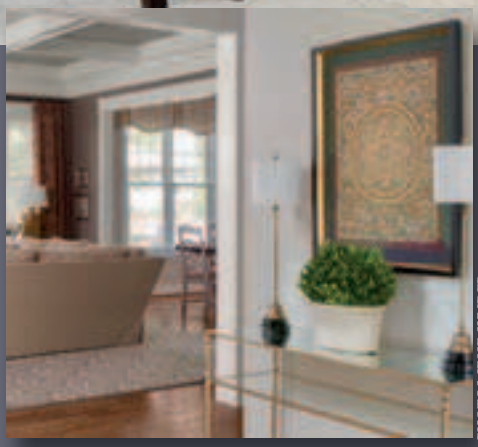


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TOUCH OF WHIMSY
▲ Scion Studio, a British fabric house, has tapped into the playful, homespun themes of Scandinavian design with the new Levande collection. Its nine fanciful designs—depicting flora, fauna and mod geometrics—come in an array of cheerful colors. Nine wallpaper designs complement the line. Available in DC at Hines & Company. scion.uk.com

MAGIC CARPET
▼ Dutch home-furnishings company Moooi recently launched its own line of carpets. Produced using a high-definition Chromojet printer in an endless number of colors, the rugs convey a photo-realistic look. The new collection includes carpet motifs by such design icons as Marcel Wanders and Edward van Vliet (pictured). moooi.com





DREAM IN BLUE
Ann Sacks's new Reve Bleu marble tile, quarried in Carrara, Italy, displays a rare mix of blue and gray veining with random strokes of brown and green. Available in three sizes, the stone is suitable for walls, countertops, floors and baths. annsacks.com

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MODERN RENAISSANCE
◄ Weitzner's New Renaissance collection reinterprets the colors and opulence of Renaissance art in 11 fabrics and six wall coverings for today's home. Piazza (pictured), a chenille suitable for indoor and outdoor upholstery, comes in Opal, Sand, Pond, Capri and Thistle. weitznerlimited.com



THE JOY OF HEX
▲ Part of Pollack's new Fusion collection, The Joy of Hex playfully combines hexagons with vibrant stripes. Available in four colorways—Shades of Grey, Nude, Lipstick and Pool Boy—the fabric also mixes textures for an intricate, eye-catching addition to any interior. pollackassociates.com





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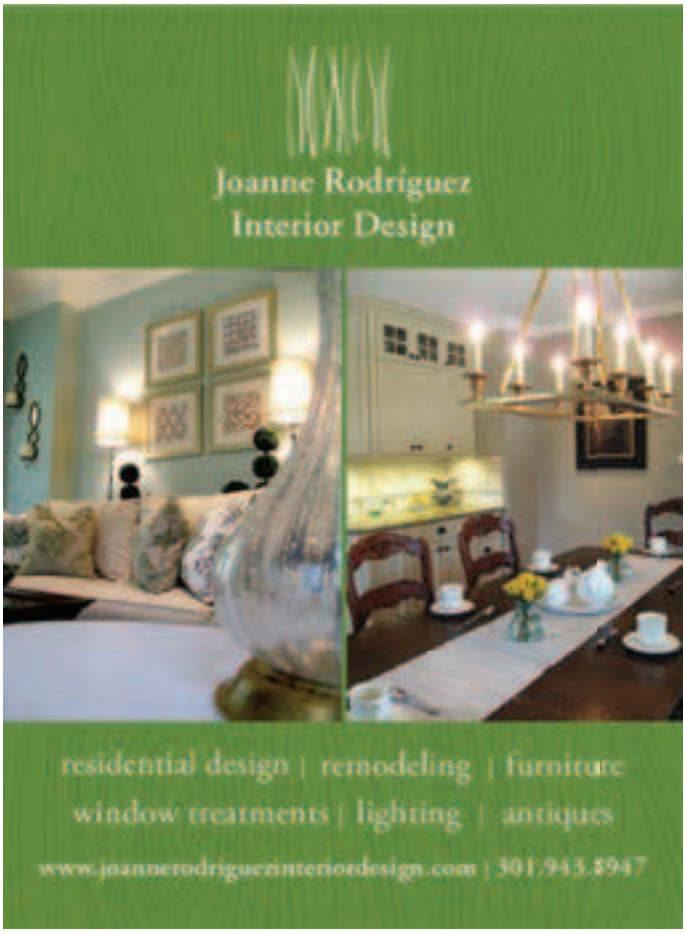
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IN THE ROUND
▲ Introduced in 2015, Farrow & Ball's Tourbillon wallpaper takes its inspiration from the Ducharne studio, which created designs for some of France's most famous couture houses from the 1920s to 1960s. The graphic pattern of concentric circles comes in seven colorways. farrow-ball.com



PLAYING WITH FIRE
Apparatus Studio pays tribute to precision studio tools in the design of its Candle Blocks. Made from waxed brass over steel, the interlocking, triangular pieces can be arranged in myriad ways to create sculptural forms and tabletop arrangements. apparatusstudio.com

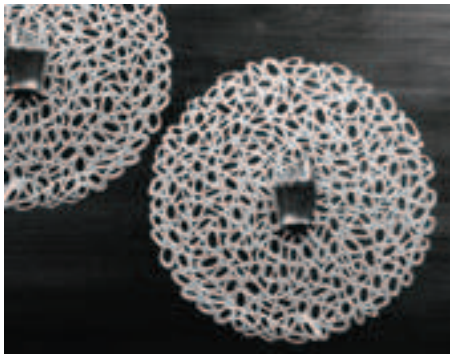





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OUT OF ASIA
◄ Depicting cherry blossoms, Samurai Bloom is one of six vibrant silks in Beacon Hill's Floating World collection. Larger scale motifs and a bold, saturated color palette put a modern spin on the Chinoiserie and Japonisme traditions. beaconhilldesign.com



BEACH PARTY
▲ Inspired by smooth pebbles at the seashore, the molded-vinyl Pebble placemat by Chilewich brings an organic, modern vibe to the table. It is available in Silver (pictured), Gunmetal, Black, Brass and Gold and also as a table runner. The easy-to-clean products are suitable for outdoor use. chilewich.com

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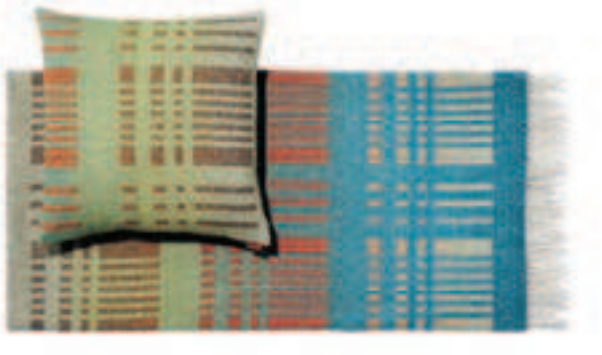
GLAMOROUS TOUCH

▲ Matador, a new textile from JAB Anstoetz, marries matte cotton and glossy viscose in a narrow, glamorous stripe. Available in 32 colorways, the fabric can dress up any interior, from modern to traditional. jab-uk.co.uk



IN BLOOM

◄ The April Vase brings a touch of spring to the tabletop all year long. Its articulated, oxidized-zinc base can be arranged in a variety of ways. Interlocking glass tubes contain flowers in style. Designed by Sigolène Prebois and Catherine Levy, the piece is available through the MoMA Store. momastore.org



CUDDLE UP

▲ Designed by Rosita Missoni for MissoniHome, the Regina Throw 174 features a bold crosshatch pattern that brings a pop of color to a living room or bedroom. It's made of a blend of wool, polyamide and cotton for a soft, cozy feel. missonihome.it



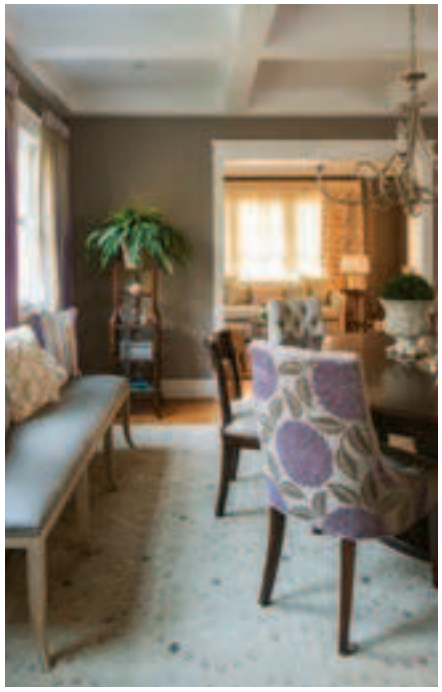


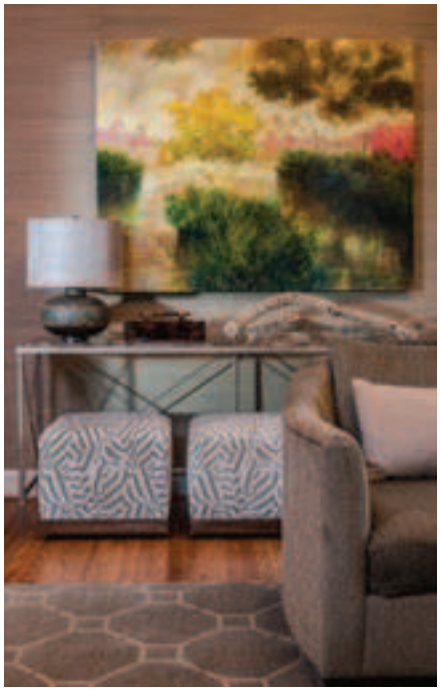




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On the **SHELF**



DESIGN ICON

■ The late, Paris-based designer Alberto Pinto made his mark as a world-renowned designer of luxe apartments, historical mansions and even a palace in the Middle East. **Alberto Pinto: Signature Interiors** by Anne Bony offers an inside look at these projects and more, with a foreword written by fashion designer Hubert de Givenchy. Flammarion, New York, New York; November 24, 2015. $80.

RECENT RETROSPECTIVE

■ French designer Christian Liaigre shares a dozen of his most recent projects around the world in **Liaigre 12 Projects.** Known for his tranquil and restrained interiors as well as his furniture designs, *Liaigre* has crafted homes for Calvin Klein and Rupert Murdoch and also designed the Mercer Hotel in New York. Flammarion, New York, New York; June 2015. $135.

CALM AND COLLECTED

■ Designer Tricia Foley reveals how she creates calming, pared-down interiors in **Life/Style: Elegant Simplicity at Home.** Using her 18th-century Long Island farmhouse as her laboratory, Foley guides readers through the processes of editing collections, organizing and accessorizing the perfect home. Flammarion, New York, New York; June 2015. $45.





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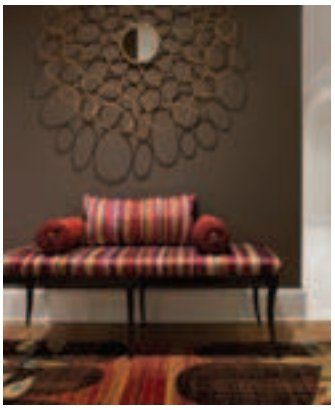
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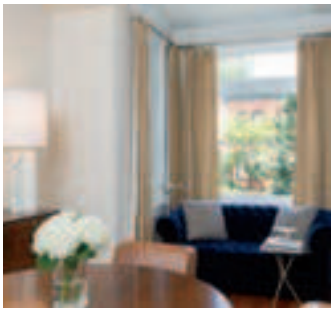
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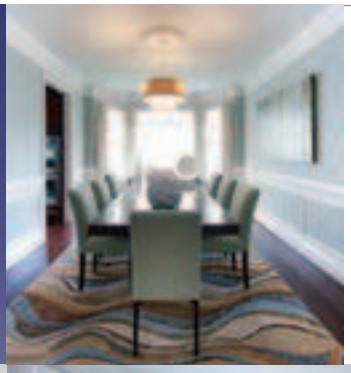


Dedicated to high-end residential interiors, her work is uniquely customized for clients regardless of the style preference. From traditional to modern, every interior is a true reflection of fashion and function.

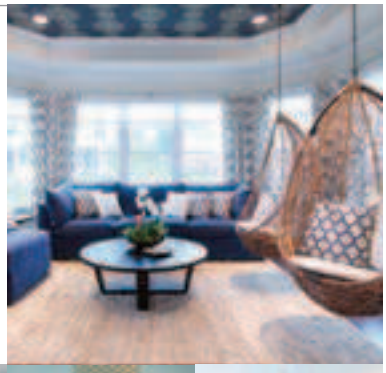
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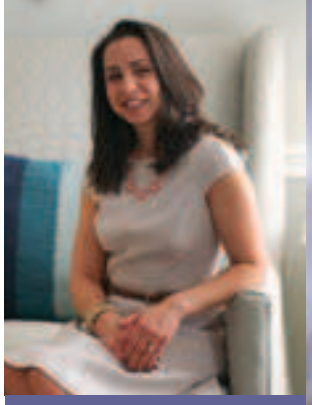


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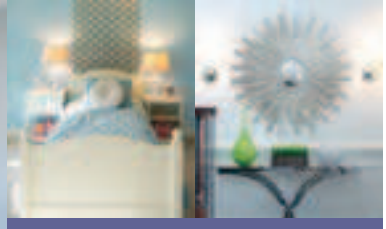
My philosophy about design is simple. Your home should reflect who you are and also work for the way you live in it and use it every day. To me, luxury is living in a space that your family and friends love to visit and never want to leave. It is truly enjoying your home and the time you spend in it.





Paola McDonald
Interior Designer





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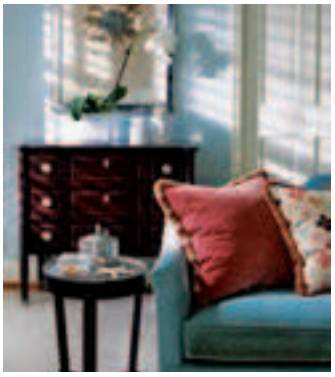
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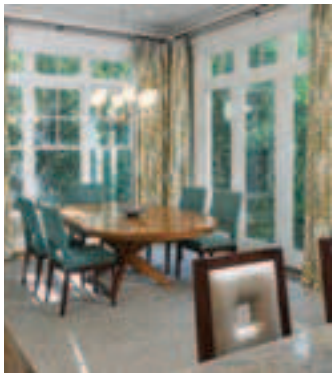
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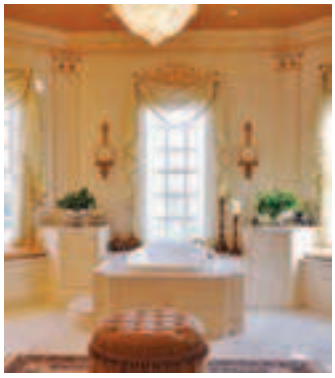
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kitchen ▪ bath



sophisticated style



An Ashburn, Virginia, couple was looking to modernize their large but dark and poorly laid-out master bath. They hired Paula Grace Halewski, who was already redesigning their house, to imbue the space with better flow and a lighter, more sophisticated sensibility.



THEN	NOW
In the middle of the floor, a massive tub with a wide surround got in the owners' way.	A Victoria & Albert soaking tub is tucked off to one side, leaving the room's center unobstructed but for an ottoman from the Kristin Drohan Collection.
The gold palette was reflected in beige walls and ceramic tile. The shower was a boring niche in the wall.	Emperador Light marble tiles create vibrancy and interest. An eye-catching decorative medallion adorns the shower.
Recessed lights were non-descript in a coffered ceiling that went unnoticed.	Crown moldings dress up the coffered ceiling and a John-Richard chandelier offers a dramatic focal point.
Brown-stained vanities made the room feel dark.	Antique-white vanities with Stone Forest vessels lighten the space.

Interior Design: Paula Grace Halewski; Paula Grace Designs, Inc., Ashburn, Virginia. Builder: CarrMichael Construction, Fairfax, Virginia. Photography: Bob Narod.

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what's cooking?

An Oakton, Virginia, kitchen goes from builder-grade to clean-lined classic

A run-of-the-mill kitchen in an eight-year-old home suffered from a poor layout and boring, builder-grade finishes. The owners contacted the team at Jordan Design-Build Group to redesign the space and impart greater functionality with a clean, classic sensibility.

In the original kitchen, a massive refrigerator was the unfortunate focal point. "It was the first thing you saw as you entered the room," recalls principal David Jordan. First, the team shuffled appliances around, locating the range in an attractive niche in the refrigerator's spot. Above it, a hood is concealed beneath custom paneling by Woodharbor. A Viking convection oven now sits to the right of the range and the fridge is tucked along another wall.

The new design left room for a beverage center, complete with drinks and wine refrigerators from GE Monogram. A built-in Miele coffeemaker is concealed behind cabinet doors.

The island has been extended to combine an eating area with prep space and storage. The Rohl farmhouse sink now occupies a corner by the window flanked by dual GE Profile dishwashers.

To achieve the classic look they were after, the owners selected white cabinetry by Merillat paired with oil-rubbed bronze hardware and Calacatta marble peripheral countertops. The island is topped with walnut and a beveled white porcelain subway-tile backsplash looks crisp and clean. Dark porcelain-tile floors with a leathered finish pick up the color of the walnut.

The lighting system and outlets are concealed to keep the space uncluttered. Pendants from Remains Lighting offer a distinctive touch.

Renovation Architecture: Tamara Beauchard, Hyattsville, Maryland. Builder: David A. Jordan; Interior Design: Shelley Vilov, IIDA, Jordan Design-Build Group, LLC, Fairfax, Virginia. Photography: Stacy Zarin Goldberg.















DAVID JORDAN'S

TRADE SECRETS

- Do a thorough kitchen inventory before you begin your renovation. Plan for where and how everything will be stored.
- Use a layered approach to lighting. Consider both natural and artificial light, and if possible, combine functional as well as decorative fixtures.
- Don't be swayed by trends. It is more important to focus on creating a kitchen that will function for your lifestyle.
- Take advantage of high ceilings by using stacked cabinets. In this project, the ceilings are 10 feet and in the previous layout there were 18 inches of unused space above the cabinets. We stacked the cabinetry to the ceiling, creating a more tailored look as well as additional storage.
- Don't rush the design. Thoughtful planning up front will lead to a more successful renovation.

all washed up

novel sinks lend pizzazz to the kitchen


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1. CUSTOM KITCHEN APRON SINK WITH FRONT SKIRTING. Stainless steel; $2,737. diamondspas.com. **2.** LUNA. Hand-hammered copper bar-and-prep trough sink; $2,245. nativetrails.net. **3.** SONOMA SINGLE BOWL FARM SINK. Stain-resistant concrete; $3,950. sinksgallery.com. **4.** FARMHOUSE SINK. Hammered copper with stainless-steel interior; $2,450. stoneforest.com. **5.** NOVUS UNDERMOUNT SINGLE BOWL. Stainless steel; $1,673. houzersink.com. **6.** 1800 SERIES. Apron front, double bowl, stainless steel; $1,000. moen.com. **7.** BLANCO MODEX. Granite with ash cutting board; $1,895. blancoamerica.com. **8.** HARBORVIEW UTILITY SINK. Enameled cast iron; $2,899. us.kohler.com. **9.** KITCHEN CHEF SINK. Concrete; from $3,000. sonomastone.com.


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1. 8520. Metal with bronze, polished-brass or satin-nickel finish, frosted glass; $478. holtkoetter.com. **2.** BISTRO GLOBE MILK GLASS DOUBLE SCONCE. Steel, aluminum and glass; $549. restorationhardware.com. **3.** MERCURY GLASS GLOBE SCONCE. Glass with polish-chrome finish; $330. shadesoflight.com. **4.** WATT II WALL-MOUNTED SINGLE-ARM SCONCE. Solid brass and molded glass; $900. waterworks.com. **5.** GEORGE KOVACS RECTANGLE CHROME 2-LIGHT WALL SCONCE. Chrome finish; $122. lampsplus.com. **6.** WESTBROOK. Aged brass, polished-chrome or satin-nickel finishes with two lights; $299. hudsonvalleylighting.com. **7.** PITTOCK DOUBLE SCONCE. Solid brass; $340. rejuvenation.com. **8.** CHEMINEE 1-LIGHT TEXTURED GLASS SCONCE. Brushed steel and wavy, textured slump glass; $246. uttermost.com. **9.** LORITA SCONCE. Polished brass; $480. arteriorshome.com.



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Bel Pre Glassworks designs and fabricates frameless shower enclosures; custom, antique and framed mirrors; painted-glass backsplashes and countertops; glass tabletops; and glass cabinet-door fronts. Beveling, sandblasting and waterjet design are its specialties.

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The team at Bel Pre collaborates with customers to create the applications that will best suit their needs, while guiding them towards timeless designs they'll be able to enjoy for years to come. "Ours is a service business," observes Gagliarducci. "It brings us satisfaction to fill the needs of our customers."



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Pictured here, a luxury townhome in a community for which we installed glass shower doors, mirrors and glass balcony railings. The railings (above) were fabricated out of half-inch-thick Evergreen laminated-glass panels, which seamlessly tie into the backdrop of trees behind each property. The shower enclosures (right) are frameless, heavy glass systems that convey a high-end look. We've thoroughly enjoyed being a part of this ongoing project.



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© STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

A clean-lined, transitional kitchen by Jack Rosen Custom Kitchens.

style and innovation

What popular trends are you noticing in kitchen and bath design right now?

VICTORIA I. FELDMAN
Nouvel Kitchen & Bath

We are seeing a general interest in contemporary design: clean-lined kitchens and baths, engineered-stone countertops, large-format horizontal tiles and laminated panels for backsplashes. Many clients are requesting wood-like tile for their kitchen floors.

Innovative lighting is prevalent. LEDs have taken the industry by storm and built-in, integrated, low-heat lights are being used for under-counter lighting and toe-kicks (to give the cabinets an elevated, airy look). Fully integrated light strips are being applied on ceilings and walls.

Nouvel specializes in laminated custom cabinetry, so we see a lot of interest in laminated surfaces, which are less susceptible to moisture and temperature variations than wood and are available at a much lower price point. We showcase the latest laminate finishes in high-gloss and textured wood looks.

JESSICA PAGE
NVS Remodeling & Design

We are using more and more LED lights in both kitchen and bath designs. They have come a long way since they were first released. Not only do they save energy and last 50 times longer than a typical incandescent, they are increasingly stylish and versatile, and afford better-quality light.

We are currently using LED lights in a number of ways. We are installing contemporary LED-lighted glass shelves in a bar area; up-lighting a glass countertop in a kitchen for dramatic effect; and backlighting a vanity for a soft yet striking look. Because they are low-heat, LED lights can also be used as task lighting in drawers and dark corner cabinets.

LED lights now come in a range of colors and forms, including ropes, tape, panels, cans and chandeliers—and they are now dimmable. All will beautifully enhance your kitchen and bathroom spaces. The options are endless!

HEDY SHASHAANI
Jack Rosen Custom Kitchens

■ Cabinetry: Engineered woods are popular for a modern look. They are usually installed horizontally and their surfaces are highly textured. European laminates also have a modern aesthetic; they are textured, durable and easy to maintain. Glazes are being used to create a modern-looking matte finish. It's common to mix cabinetry styles and colors. In more transitional or traditional kitchens, polished nickel hardware is prevalent; in more contemporary ones, the hardware is hidden or de-emphasized for a cleaner look. I'm also seeing bleached colors like limed ash and light oak.

■ Countertops: Marble-like countertops made of quartz materials like Caesarstone and Silestone look increasingly real, and are even more popular (and expensive) than the real thing, since they are lower maintenance.

■ Backsplash: I'm seeing a lot of glass tile, though marble slabs and back-painted glass are also popular.



Photo by Tom Olcott

"As a professional interior designer, I value the expertise of specialists and often refer my clients to Jennifer Gilmer Kitchen & Bath for kitchen design. I was sure that JGKB would deliver something unique for my new home in Nantucket. JGKB helped me see the space differently and incorporated disparate elements, balancing form and function."

Vivian Braunohler, ASID, Braunohler Design Associates LLC

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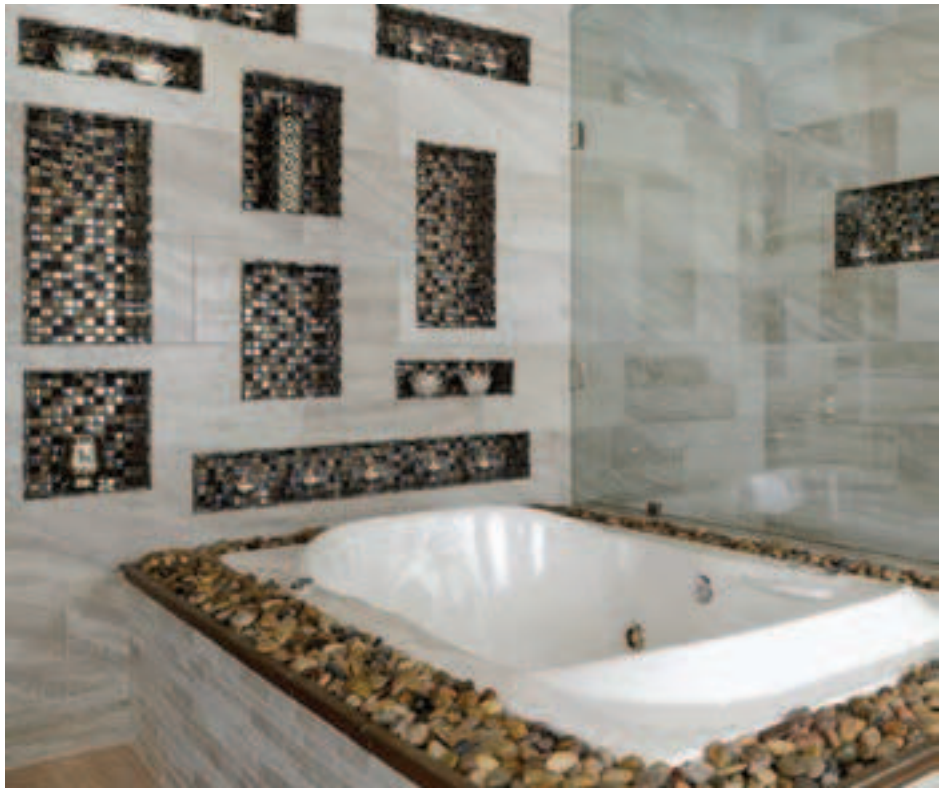
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PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

A luxurious shower surround reflects the popular trend of using patterned tile to add interest in a space (above). An accent wall of rustic stone turns a fireplace and TV into a focal point (top). A stone tub deck and glass mosaic wall niches dress up a spa bath clad in porcelain tile (right).

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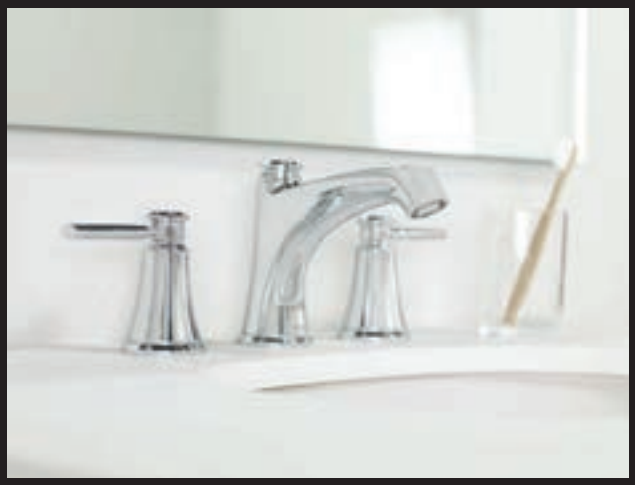
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editors' picks



SPACE SAVER

▼ Measuring 24 inches across, Bosch's Glass Door Refrigerator is designed for small spaces. The interior holds three freezer drawers, a wine rack and a sealed crisper. The doors come in white and black glass, or glass on stainless steel (pictured) for easy clean-up and a sleek, modern look. bosch-home.com





COUNTRY COOKING

▲ Newport Brass's Chesterfield pot filler conjures images of country kitchens and traditional fare. Made of solid brass with a chrome or brass finish, the double-jointed, wall-mounted pot filler is part of a series that features a bridge faucet and an optional handheld, deck-mounted side spray unit. newportbrass.com

CHARACTER BUILDING

▲ Over-counter pendants can lend character to the kitchen, and the Burdett is no exception. The four-light fixture from Hudson Valley Lighting is suspended by delicate links of chain and boasts a shade with a pleated interior. Available as a large or mini pendant in Aged Brass, Old Bronze and Polished Nickel. hudsonvalleylighting.com



IN THE HOOD

▲ Home-products designer Fu-Tung Cheng has partnered with Zephyr to create The Cheng Collection, featuring the sleek Limited Edition Okeanito wall hood. Available in polished or brushed stainless steel, it boasts perforated side panels that radiate light via LED bulbs and an optional wireless remote control. zephyronline.com



VERY ARTICULATE

▲ The Solna Articulating Single-Handle Kitchen Faucet from Brizo echoes an architect's lamp. The handle directs water while the spray wand is secured via a patented magnet docking system. Available in polished chrome, stainless and matte black. brizo.com

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JEWEL IN THE CROWN
▼ THG Paris has teamed with French porcelain maker Manufacture de Monaco to produce the jewelry-inspired Monte Carlo bath collection. Adorned with 24-carat gold and Swarovski crystals, the line boasts mounted fittings, basins, showers and accessories—all reminiscent of antique filigree jewels. thg.usa





INDUSTRIAL CHARM
▲ Stone Forest's Ore Vessel sink takes its form from antique steel pipe caps, and has been sand-casted to create the rough surface found on the originals. The vessel is paired here with the Industrial Pedestal, inspired by a cast-iron pattern-making table found in U.S. factories in the 1920s. stoneforest.com

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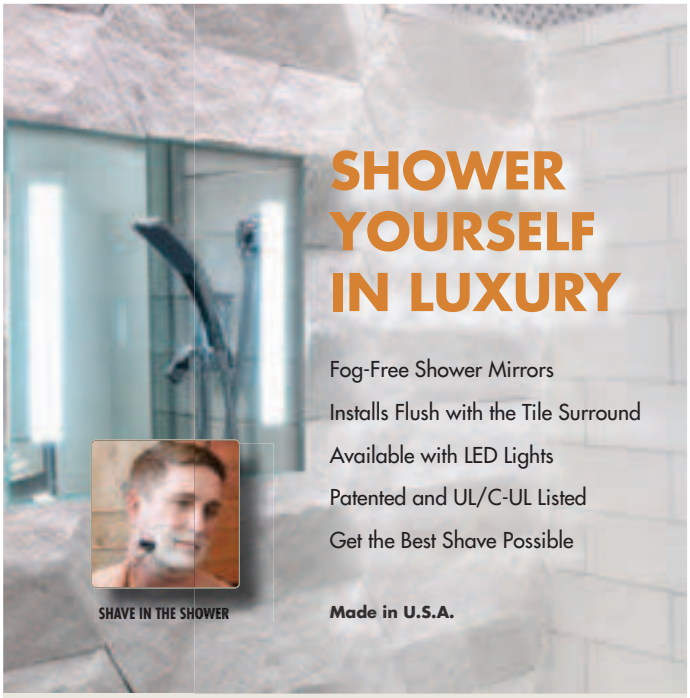


WATER + LIGHT
▲ Designed for Axor Hansgrohe, Japanese design studio Nendo's Axor LampShower sheds new light on shower time with a combination lamp and showerhead. Available in ceiling- and wall-mounted versions, the fixture comes in a chrome finish. hansgrohe-usa.com





STEAMED UP
▲ MicroTouch, a new innovation by ThermaSol, is a remote control for the steam shower. At the touch of a finger, it turns the shower on and off, regulates temperature and recalls its last steam setting. MicroTouch comes in a range of styles and finishes to match any plumbing fixture. thermasol.com



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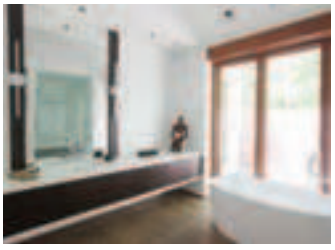
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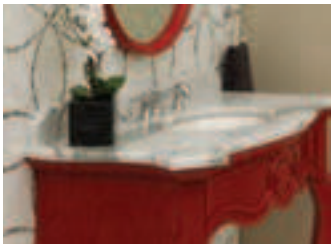
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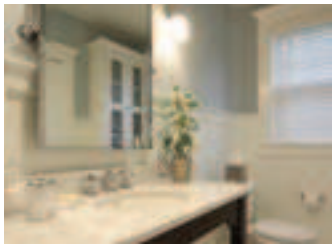
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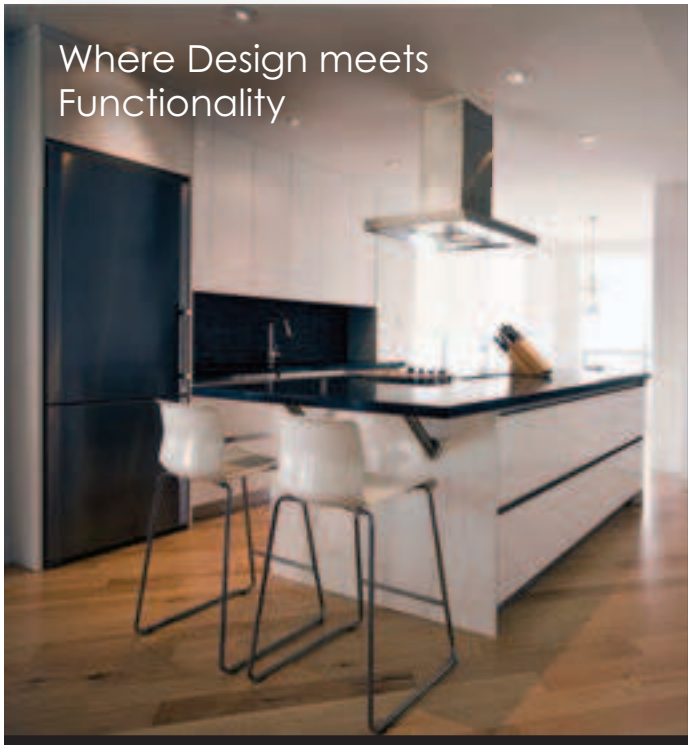


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PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Something is always cooking in this luxurious outdoor kitchen (top), featuring a wide assortment of stainless-steel outdoor appliances. Old-World craftsmanship and lush, colorful plantings offer curb appeal and a warm welcome to visitors at a Colonial-style home (above). A cabana (right) creates a sheltered retreat overlooking a pool and courtyard garden.

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backyard paradise



A couple with two daughters tapped landscape architect Daniel Robey to create a "vacation home in Potomac" by adding outdoor living spaces, a pool, water features and a pool house to their under-utilized backyard.



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The barren lawn was primarily used by the owner's dog, who enjoyed romping around on the grass.	Owners and guests can relax in the pool and spa and gather in the open-air pool house, equipped with a kitchen, fireplace and built-in TV.
Though the owners used their existing terraces, they had no reason to venture into the rest of the backyard.	A dining area under a new pergola and terraced living spaces make full use of the property's outdoor terrain.
The empty backyard did nothing to enhance the visual or sensory appeal of the house.	Stone walls, planting beds and flowering crape myrtles lend the yard the feel of a resort, while a fountain comprised of a trio of clay vessels creates the soothing sound of cascading water.

Landscape Architecture & Contracting: Daniel Robey, McHale Landscape Design, Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Pool: Town & Country Pools, Springfield, Virginia. Photography: John Spaulding.


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al fresco living

The founder of Chapel Valley Landscape Company creates his own backyard oasis

J. Landon Reeve owns 34 bucolic acres in Woodbine, Maryland. Home to both his residence and his firm, Chapel Valley Landscape Company, the property is heavily wooded, but near the house woods give way to a pristine lawn and poolscape.

Reeve and his wife completed a major overhaul of this beautiful backyard in 2001, and the property earned a 2014 Decade Award from the Landscape Contractors Association. With mature vegetation and a timeless design, the property remains an inviting refuge. "The whole design was planned for entertaining," says Reeve's wife, Dallas. "We have grandkids nearby. Everything we did was with friends and family in mind."

A flat expanse of lawn can hold a tent for big parties, while the adjacent pool area is framed by pergolas that allow for a longer swimming season by buffering against the elements. Slate paths lead conveniently to the house, tennis court, driveway and nursery.

The new design was challenging. "We had the septic system to work around," says Landon. "And we had to get the grade right. There's a deep swale and water from the woods runs into it naturally. We sited the pool by it, but elevated it to avoid flooding." A curved, 200-foot-long retaining wall separates the yard from the woods; a summer garden of lilies, iris, coneflowers and pink and white flox nestles on the slope where the woods begin. "It's a tapestry of plants, so we have variations of color even when they're not blooming," says Reeve.

Wisteria drapes the pergolas and neat rows of boxwood delineate paths and beds. Pots of hibiscus and petunia add color to the pool deck.





Landscape Design: J. Landon Reeve IV, Chapel Valley Landscape Company, Woodbine, Maryland. Photography: Jeff Atkinson.



J. LANDON REEVE'S

TRADE SECRETS

■ Hire a good landscape architect who can help with the setting of the pool and make each element flow together. We wanted a garden with a pool in it; we didn't want it to be all pool. Make sure your landscape is balanced.

■ Nowadays, you see more hardscape and fewer plants. I prefer not to take away from the plantings with too much hardscape.

■ Make sure your site plan accounts for drainage and location of the sun. Is the lighting good for what you want to do in your yard?

■ Remember how your landscape is going to be used and don't get carried away with frills. It should be beautiful, but not at the expense of making it uncomfortable.

■ Get advice on plantings from nurseries and other experts.


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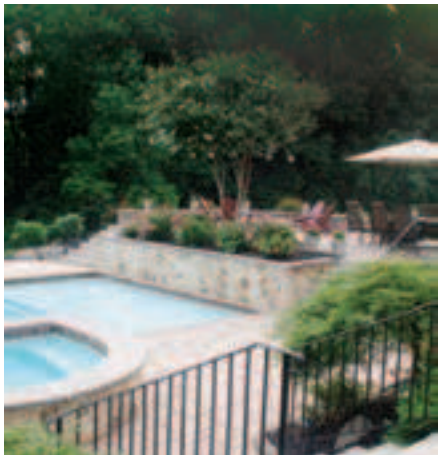


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Kevin O'Neill and his wife Carol started **Great American Landscapes** in 1984, armed with Master's degrees in landscape design from George Washington University. Customer by customer, they have built a company culture committed to consistently delivering superior products and services with a personal touch. More than 75 percent of their business comes from referrals and repeat customers—a testament to the company's extraordinary level of customer service. "At Great American, our focus is you," O'Neill says. "We are far more interested in getting to know you and what you want than we are in telling you about us. That is our difference."

Today, Great American Landscapes is a full-service, design, build and maintenance company serving the Washington Metro area. No job is too big or too small. The company recently won a 2014 Landscape Contractor Association Grand Award for Residential Maintenance of a property in Northern Virginia.



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Owners Kevin and Carol O'Neill (top) transformed a steeply sloped backyard into a multi-terraced entertainment area overlooking the private, wooded property. The finished landscape design features a lower pool terrace (right) and an upper terrace (above) encompassing three patios; a built-in grill; a smoker; a bar; and a fire pit—all integrated with stone retaining walls, iron railings and ornamental gardens.



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Surrounds, Inc. designed a poolscape and water feature on a Great Falls property.

in the garden

What factors are essential to creating a low-maintenance landscape or hardscape?

GREG POWELL
Inviting Spaces

The key to a low-maintenance landscape is plant selection. Choose dwarf plants and/or ones that are slow-growing. While these tend to be more expensive in the short run, they won't require a high level of care long-term. Other considerations are deer resistance, suitability to our clay soils and stability. Make your plant selections from a solid platform of known varieties, then add fun and color with bulbs and perennials that are neat and tidy.

Low-maintenance hardscapes are all about installation. Using a professional to install your hardscape will ensure multiple years of low-maintenance longevity and enjoyment. Using less experienced contractors or trying to tackle a hardscaping job on your own can lead to constant upkeep, or worse, the need to rebuild—in other words, more maintenance in the long run.

It is important to remember, however, that low maintenance does not mean no maintenance!

HOWARD COHEN
Surrounds, Inc.

Here are some tips for low-maintenance landscaping:

■ Keep it simple. Large masses of one type of plant will be easier to maintain. Leave room for plants to grow. Trees will choke out smaller plants. Use plants that will work together over time.

■ Provide adequate drainage. The mid-Atlantic region is notorious for poorly draining soils. When selecting plants in any conditions—dry or wet, sunshine or shade—keep like-performing plants together if possible. A garden with moisture-loving plants in the same bed as those that prefer dry soil can be difficult to sustain.

■ Winter winds can cause major damage. Consider how the cold months will affect the plants you choose.

It may be a toss-up whether it's easier to maintain turf or beds. While grass requires mowing, fertilization and water, beds need weeding and mulching. Strike a balance to create a nice aesthetic.

MIKE PROKOPCHAK
Walnut Hill Landscape Company

For a low-maintenance landscape, soil composition and light are extremely important; consider these factors during plant selection, as plants will nearly always thrive under the right conditions. Replicate plants you see in the area that are doing well. If soil conditions are poor, proper amendments will improve them.

When creating a low-maintenance hardscape, drainage is important. Understanding the flow of water on a site will help determine what kind of drainage or grading will ensure proper water flow. Typically, the installation of a patio or walkway requires a two-percent slope for water to properly flow across the surface. Surfaces can be designed to direct water towards a drain where it will collect. From there, it can be piped to a lower grade to be released.


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OUTDOOR COMFORT

▲ Its sculptural style and thick layer of foam cushioning impart comfort and interest to the Maya Collection of outdoor seating from Room & Board. Pictured here, a chaise covered in weather-resistant Sunbrella canvas with white zigzag topstitching. Available in a stationary chaise or chair or as a swivel chair. roomandboard.com



A NEW LEAF

▲ Perfect for spring and summer—indoors and out—Arper's airy Leaf outdoor collection conjures nature, with bases that recall tree branches and seats that mimic the delicate veins found in leaves. Stackable chairs, lounges, chaises and tables (pictured) are part of the mix. Tables come in two heights; tops are squares, circles or rounded triangles. arper.com



FULLY LOADED

▲ Boasting a 50-inch split hood with two separate fire boxes, the stainless-steel Coyote Hybrid Grill offers the best of both worlds: high-powered burners for efficient gas grilling on one side and a charcoal- and woodchip-friendly tray for old-fashioned grilling or smoking on the other. Includes interior hood lights on the gas side. coyoteoutdoor.com



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TIMELESS TEAK

▼ Barlow Tyrie brings clean-lined, mid-century style outdoors with the Monterey Dining Table 300. Combining a plantation teak base and ceramic top, the table is paired with Monterey chairs, which sport solid teak frames and seats and backs made of braided cord. barlowtyrie.com



PIZZA PERFECT

▼ Order pizza from your own backyard with Alfresco's Pizza Oven Plus. A gas log heats the ceramic ceiling slab for even, intense temperatures that can cook a thin-crust pizza in three minutes. A plenum between oven and door keeps the control panel cool. alfrescogrills.com





TABLE SCAPE

▲ BoConcept's vibrant new cotton oilcloths feature a durable, stain-resistant gloss finish with a soft, attractive drape. Patterns pictured include (top to bottom) Spot, Zigzag, Diamond and Feather. boconcept.com



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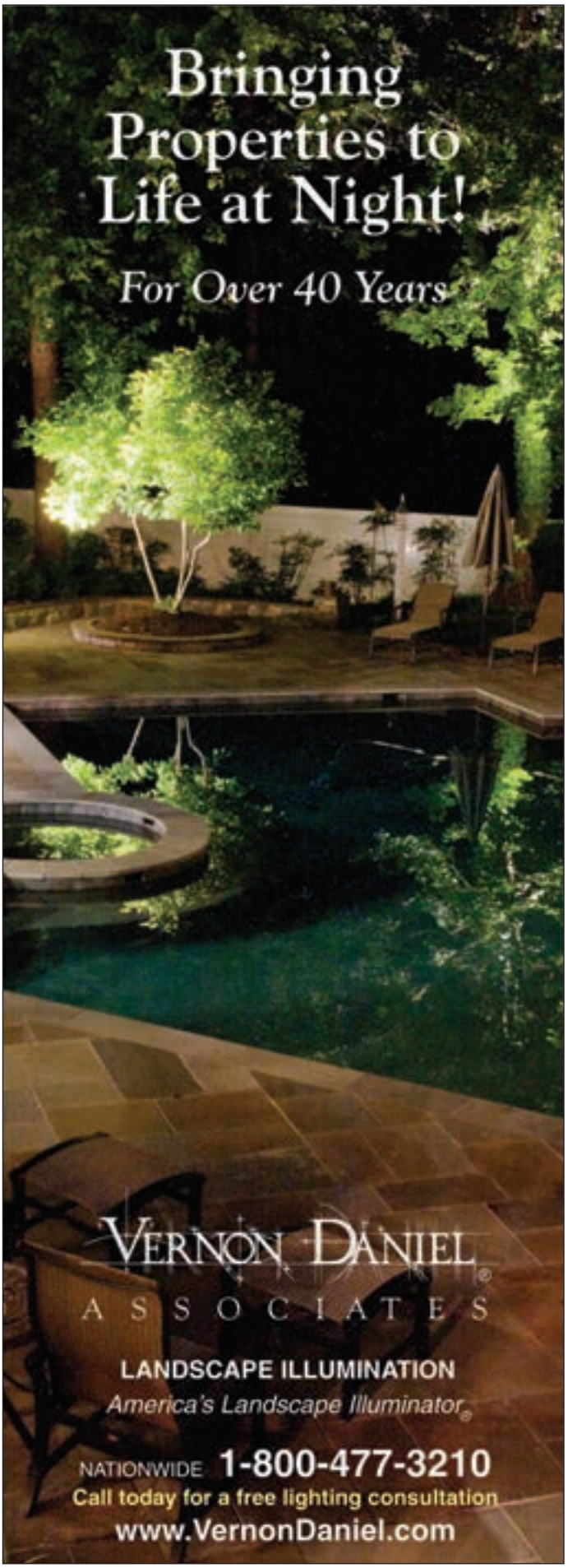


PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

A beach-community home (right) features Celect seven-inch traditional siding in Latte with complementary white trim. Celect's moisture-resistant features are perfect for a beachfront or poolside home (above). Celect Cellular Exteriors by Royal features a patented, interlocking joint system that creates a seamless design.



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CHIC SHELTER

▼ Walpole Outdoors' pergola kits allow for easy assembly of free-standing or attached pergolas in a wide variety of sizes, styles and materials. Pictured here, a freestanding double-column pergola made from durable, wood-like cellular PVC encloses an outdoor kitchen. walpolewoodworkers.com





PAINTER'S PALETTE

◄ Link Outdoor's 2015 upholstery collection features textured neutrals, painterly stripes, bold hues and soft pastels. All fabrics are solution-dyed acrylic for durability and low-maintenance. Pictured here, Brushstroke, a loose, contemporary pattern in a range of bright colors. linkoutdoor.com



STURDY STYLE

▲ Komfy, a lounge set designed by Eric Carrère for Sifas, is made of powder-coated, lacquered aluminum or stainless steel with a woven, PVC-coated polyester seat and back and a cushion covered in outdoor acrylic. Intended to withstand the elements. sifas.com

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On the **SHELF**



GARDEN TOUR

■ Celebrating The Garden Conservancy's 25th anniversary, **Outstanding American Gardens** by Page Dickey spotlights eight public gardens the nonprofit group has preserved and 42 of the 3,000 private gardens across the U.S. that have been open to the public for tours through its activities. Stewart, Tabori & Chang, New York, New York; 2015. $50.

AL FRESCO STYLE

■ Fashion designer and style diva Carolyne Roehm treats readers to a tour of the lavish gardens surrounding her historic Connecticut home in **At Home in the Garden.** The author shares the stories behind her parterre, rose and shade gardens and offers advice on floral design, outdoor entertaining and more. Potter Style, New York, New York; October 27, 2015. $85.

AU NATUREL

■ In **The Authentic Garden: Naturalistic and Contemporary Landscape Design**, authors Richard Hartlage and Sandy Fischer document 60 American gardens, each selected for its intelligent, eco-friendly approach and its mission to create a unique sense of place. The Monacelli Press, New York, New York; November 17, 2105. $50.


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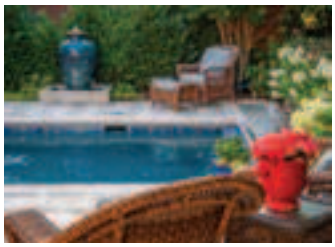
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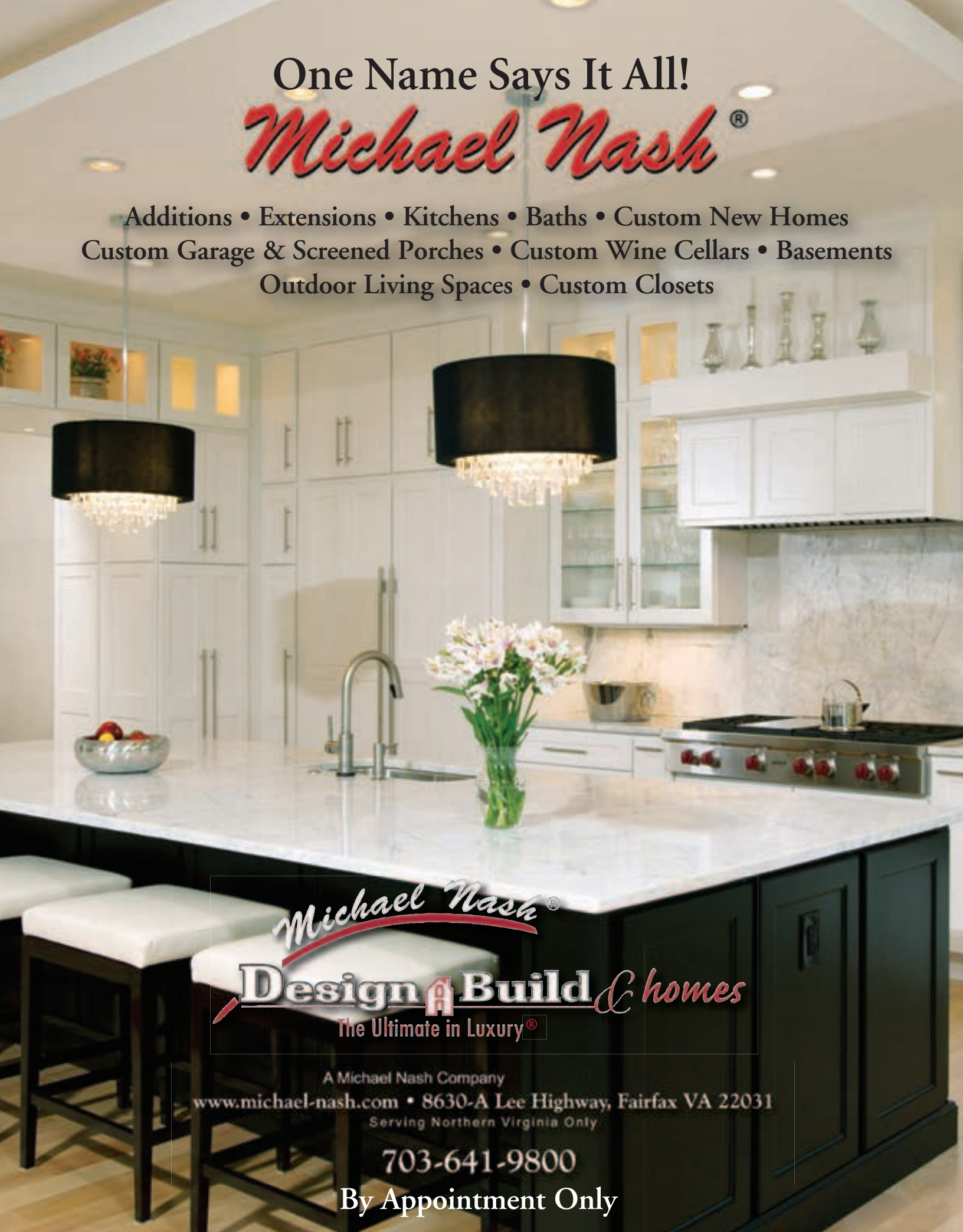


The kitchen of a Potomac home on a golf course was closed off and dark. The owners hired Sonny Nazemian of Michael Nash Design Build & Homes to open up the outdated space, adding abundant light and views of the outdoors.



THEN	NOW
A wall blocked the view of the outdoors from the kitchen, which was isolated and cramped.	The wall has been removed, enlarging the kitchen and admitting natural light.
A narrow peninsula provided the only space for gathering in the kitchen.	A five-by-14-foot island offers space to gather and houses the main sink, dishwasher, beverage center and more.
Dark, outdated cabinetry made the room feel small.	Quartzite backsplash and countertops and white-painted cabinets keep the kitchen bright and airy; the island is painted black for contrast.
Poor lighting added to the dark, dingy impression.	Recessed lights in a dropped ceiling add interest, while pendants impart drama.

Renovation Construction & Kitchen Design: Sonny Nazemian, CID, CR, CKBR, Michael Nash Design Build & Homes, Fairfax, Virginia. Photography: Greg Hadley.


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mid-century magic

A light-filled, open floor plan transforms a mundane 1950s house in Chevy Chase

Nestled into the eclectic Chevy Chase neighborhood of Somerset, a nondescript split-level house caught the eye of buyers who appreciated its bones despite its outdated condition. They consulted architect Lou Balodemas about a whole-house renovation that would bring in light, impart a modern, open feel and enliven the exterior.

The front door leads to a ground-level foyer, which Balodemas expanded out about four feet; he also updated the space with a dark, porcelain-tile floor. The existing staircase was retained; it leads up to the main level, which has been transformed from a series of separate rooms into an open-plan space encompassing living and dining areas and a kitchen.

One of the main goals of the project was to bring in as much light as possible. "Opening up the rooms helped," Balodemas says. "We also removed false framing that created slanted ceilings in the living and dining rooms. Now, there's a cathedral ceiling across both areas." Skylights have been added above the dining area, in the kitchen and in both baths, while the living room windows were enlarged. The kitchen and both baths were updated with a sleek, modern aesthetic, and an existing screened porch has been rebuilt.

The front façade underwent a major facelift that adds visual interest and curb appeal. "The garage doors really needed to be de-emphasized," Balodemas says. "We replaced them with a single custom door of sapele mahogany." A matching decorative panel was installed beside it, and a new front door, flanked by wide sidelites, is painted eye-catching, welcoming red.









Renovation Architecture: Lou Balodemas, AIA, Balodemas Architects, Washington, DC. Builder: Phil Mann, Highbury Construction, Washington, DC. Interior Design: Christie Leu, Christie Leu Interiors, Chevy Chase, Maryland. Photography: Anice Hoachlander.







LOU BALODEMAS'S

TRADE SECRETS

- Before you begin the renovation process, be sure to communicate as much information as you can to your architect about what you want. This will streamline the process and make it easier for him/her to achieve a design that satisfies you and meets your needs.
- In terms of design, take what the existing house gives you. Don't force unnecessary alterations in an effort to make the house something it's not. You will be happier with the result.
- Make decisions as early as possible in the process and try to stick with them. This is the best way to avoid extra, unforseen work and expense.
- Be prepared to pay what it takes to hire a proven and reliable contractor. It will be worth the investment.

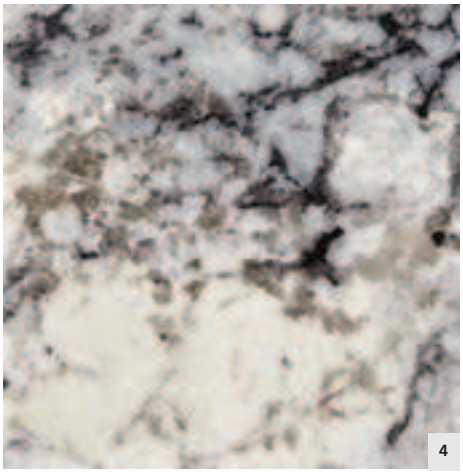
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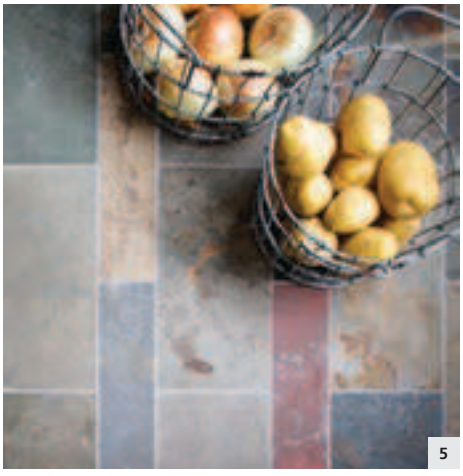
natural surfaces enhance your home


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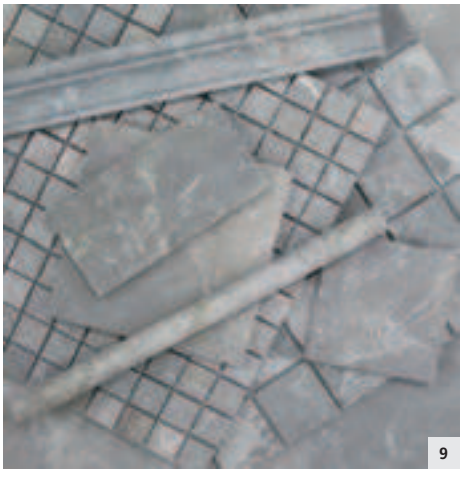

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A dining room embellished with millwork and built-ins, in a project by Lang & Company.

home improvement

What are common mistakes to avoid when embarking on a remodeling project?

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First, don't start without a realistic budget. Your architect, designer or builder will help you figure out what you want to do and what you have to spend—and if the two are compatible.

Hire your team—builder, architect and interior designer—up front, if possible, so everyone is on the same page from the beginning. The best methods for finding the right professionals to work with are online resources like Houzz and word-of-mouth referrals. Architects are often a good resource for finding builders.

Don't wait to make decisions. There are a lot and they are best made in the planning stage. Be as detailed as possible at the start.

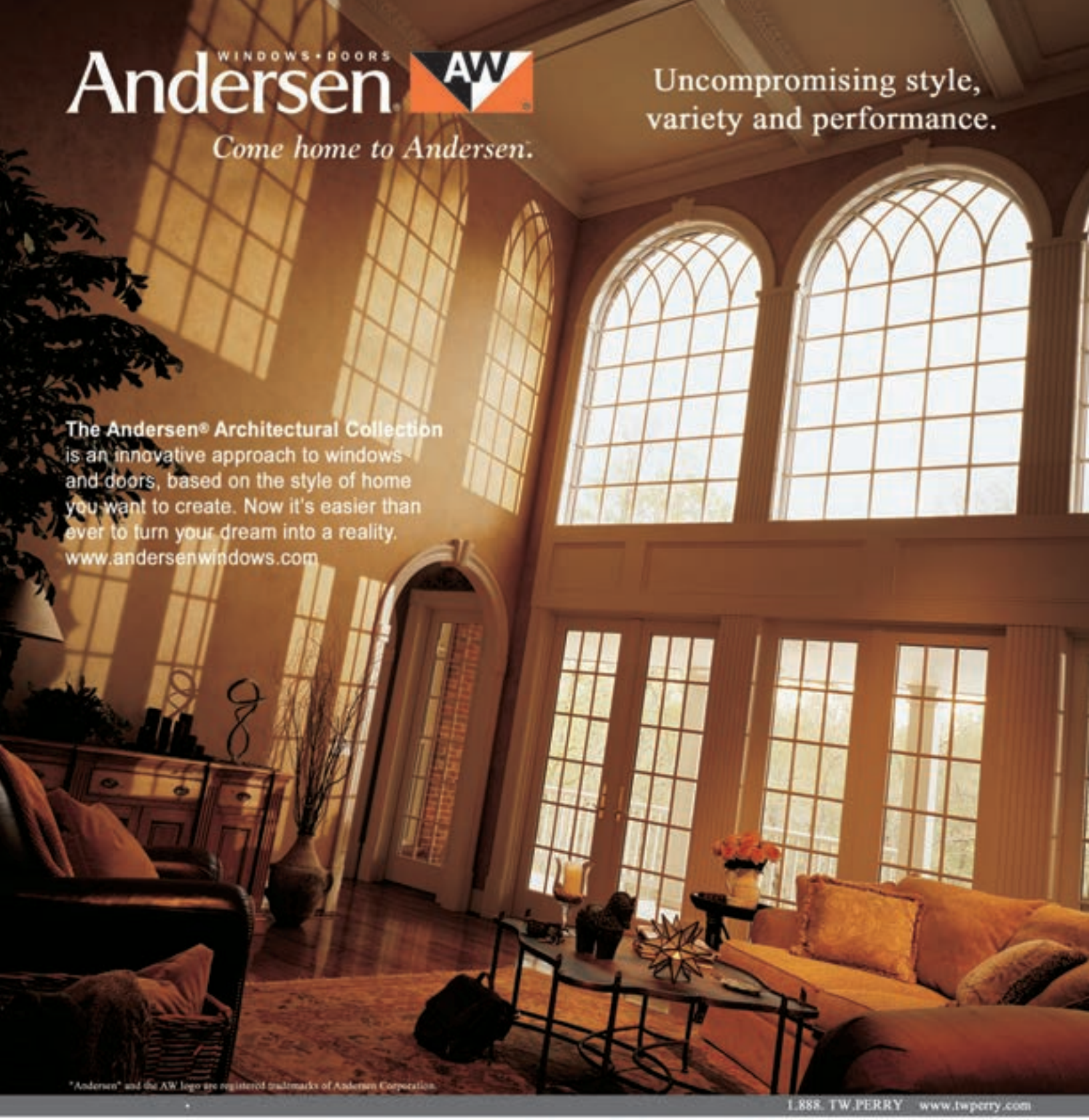
Don't hire someone just because they will do the job for less. At some point, you get what you pay for. The design-build process, where decisions can be made in one place, yields a better thought-out project with more savings.

ROB MENEFEE & JESSICA CANNON
FA Design Build
Prepare for the unexpected and embark on your project with realistic expectations. Fold a contingency amount into your budget of about 10 percent of the price of the project. Also, be prepared for a disruption of daily life during a remodel. A well-planned project with a good remodeling company can ease the disturbance, and the final result—a beautifully remodeled space—will be worth it.

When planning for a project, think of the future. What will your life be like in five years? Or 10? Your design should reflect future needs as well as current ones. Is this your forever home, or do you plan to sell eventually? If you do, the space should be designed with potential buyers in mind. Embrace styles and design elements that transcend trends. They will always look great.

RICHARD LANG
Lang & Company
The three biggest mistakes we see clients make are: not engaging an architect or designer for their project; failing to make finish selections early; and selecting an unqualified contractor based on price.

The genesis of every bad remodeling story is a miscommunication that snowballs. However, these horror stories are avoidable if you follow some simple guidelines. First, invest in a thorough set of construction drawings and project specifications to ensure that your architect is able to communicate your vision clearly to the builder. Make finish selections early. This will allow the contractor to order materials in advance, mitigating delays. It will also provide tradespeople with the accurate information they need to avoid costly and time-consuming modifications further along. Finally, hire a contractor with a proven track record for communicating effectively and implementing projects consistent with the scope and level of finish that you expect.



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editors' picks



OUTDOOR ELEMENTS
▲ Walpole Outdoors, a manufacturer and distributor of architectural landscape products, offers railings handmade in a range of materials, including low-maintenance cellular PVC, wood, aluminum, glass and more. Pictured here, the Custom Radius Railing, crafted of cellular PVC, follows the curve of a terrace. walpolewoodworkers.com

IN LIVING COLOR
▼ Sherwin Williams is launching ColorSnap, a color-selection system with rotating panels that group colors by family and saturation level; turn a panel to see as many as 50 paint chips within that color family. A companion app scans color chips, provides room scenes, coordinates colors and more. sherwinwilliams.com





PORTS OF CALL
▲ Lunada Bay has partnered with lifestyle brand Tommy Bahama to create handcrafted glass mosaic tiles inspired by natural palettes found on remote beaches throughout the world. Ten color blends in six patterns are available in 12-by-12-inch sheets. lunadabaytile.com



SCULPTURAL STYLE
◄ With its gracefully integrated handle and body, Pfister's Indira faucet adds a sculptural design element to the kitchen. Its functionality is also a plus: The spray head docks securely in the spout tube, while the faucet boasts spray and stream functions. Available in stainless steel or chrome. pfisterfaucets.com





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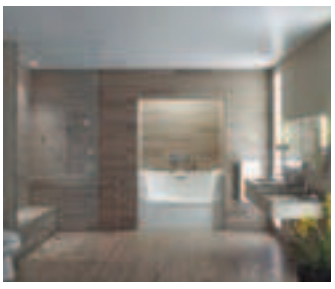
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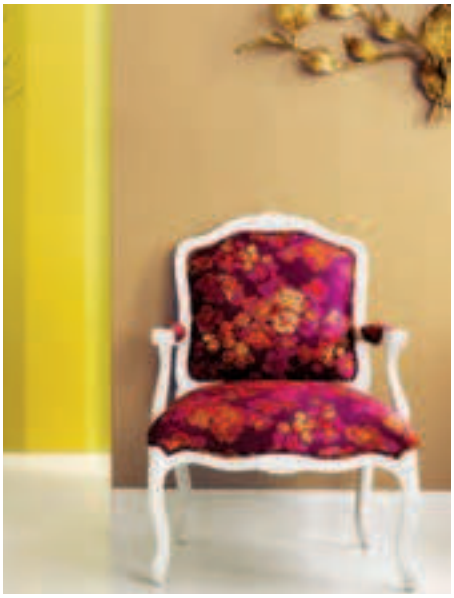
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a calendar of home-and-garden shows, tours and special events

a year in design

Maryland Home & Garden Show
October 16 to 18, 2015
Maryland State Fairgrounds. Timonium, Maryland
mdhomeandgarden.com/fall

Reston Home Tour 2015
October 17, 2015
Reston, Virginia; restonmuseum.org

48th Annual Dupont Circle House Tour & Tea
October 18, 2015
Dupont Circle, DC; dupont-circle.org

33rd Annual St. Albans Christmas House Tour
December 4 & 5, 2015
Washington, DC; stalbansschool.org

Home + Remodeling Show
January 22 to 24, 2016
Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly, Virginia
homeandremodelingshow.com

American Craft Council Baltimore Show
February 19 to 21, 2016
Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, Maryland
craftcouncil.org

Capital Remodel + Garden Show
February 26 to 28, 2016
Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly, Virginia
capitalremodelandgardenshow.com

Maryland Home & Garden Spring Show
March 5, 6 and 11 to 13, 2016
Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, Maryland
mdhomeandgarden.com/spring

2016 DC Design House
April 9 to May 8, 2016
Location to be determined; dcdesignhouse.com

Historic Garden Week in Virginia
April 23 to 30, 2016
The Garden Club of Virginia; tours statewide
vagardenweek.org

Annual Smithsonian Craft Show
April 21 to 24, 2016
National Building Museum, DC; smithsoniancraftshow.com

The 17th Annual Parade Of Homes
April 23 & 24, 2016
Northern Virginia; vaparade.com

The 2015 DC Design House featured a loggia by Nancy Colbert of Design Partners LLC that boasts a sectional from JANUS et Cie and a custom fire table.

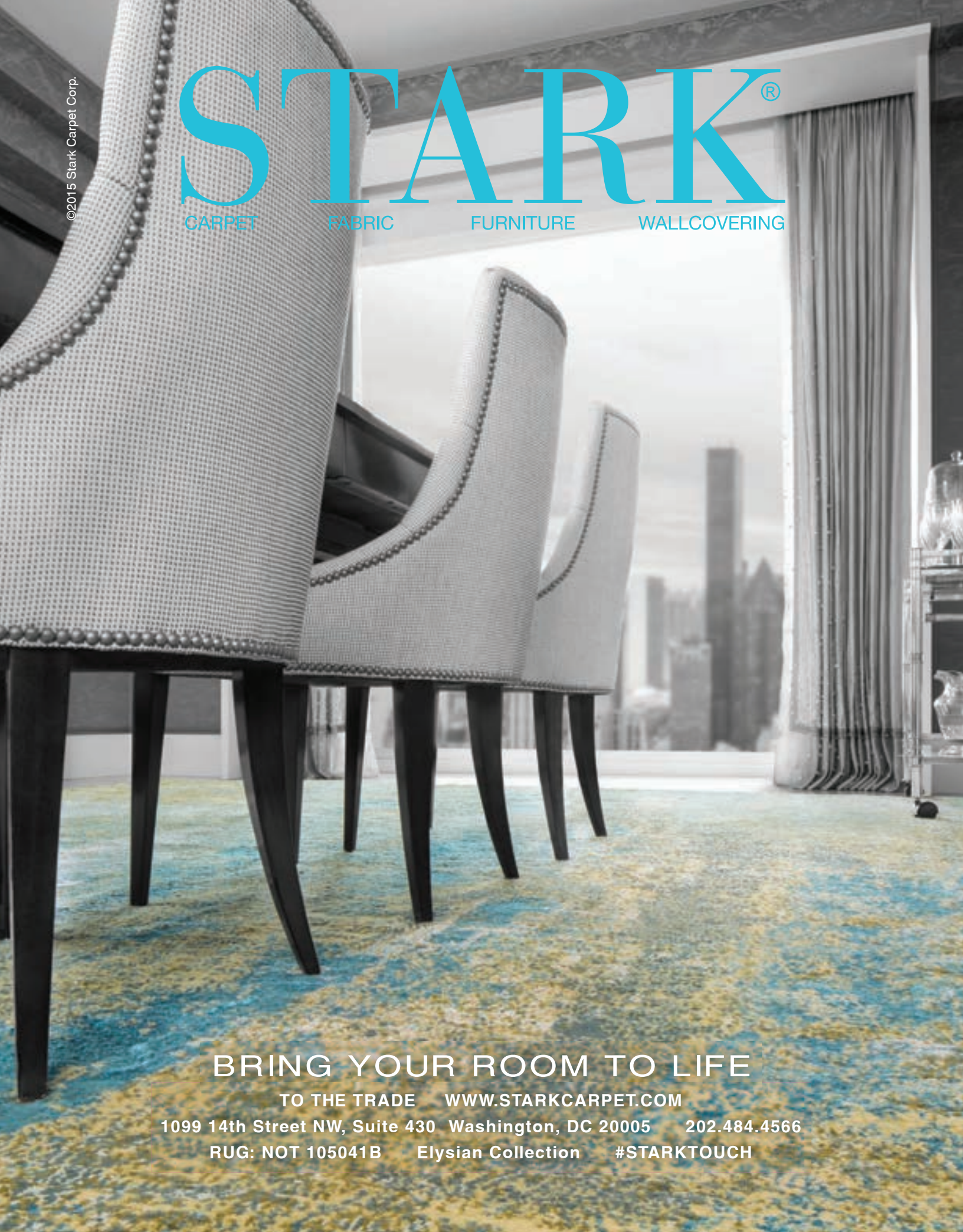
Baltimore Symphony Decorator Show House
May 2016
Location and dates to be determined; bsomusic.org

Capitol Hill Restoration Society Annual House and Garden Tour
May 7 & 8, 2016
Capitol Hill, DC; chrs.org

Bethesda Fine Arts Festival
May 14 & 15, 2016
Bethesda, Maryland; bethesda.org

Plein Air Easton Art Festival
July 9 to 27, 2016
Easton, Maryland; pleinaireaston.com

Baltimore Summer Antiques Show
August 25 to 28, 2016
Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, Maryland
baltimoresummerantiques.com


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